

JOHNS HOPKINS NURSING

New CNO at JHH

Sharon Smyth steps into big shoes, leaving a large pair behind at JH Bayview Medical Center.

MSN students share ingredients that create strong, empathetic leaders.

FROM THE DEAN

STICKING TO THE MISSION, TODAY AND TOMORROW

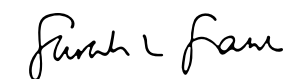
For generations, the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing has been more than a place of learning. It's been a steady, trusted voice in health care—not only educating and caring for communities, but also helping to shape the policies that guide us through both everyday challenges and the most difficult moments. Today, as you know, our country and its health care system are being pushed to their limits, and once again, we're being called to lead with compassion and courage.

The good news: We never shrink from a challenge. We've also been tested before, each time rising to meet the moment. The mission of the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing remains strong and unchanged. The nurses we send into the world, or welcome back into the profession prepared to lead it, are a diverse, talented, and inspiring example of what nursing stands for and what we can accomplish together.

In fact, you will meet many of those students from the MSN (Entry into Nursing) and Doctor of Nursing Practice programs, both once again recognized as top-notch by *U.S. News & World Report* (Page 9). Their stories begin on Page 10. As we read of their journeys, we as faculty, alumni, staff, or friends of nursing can reflect on the common, unbreakable threads that connect the nursing experience. We hope also that those who look to us for strength will once again find stories here that mirror their own values and encourage their hopes for the future.

We are the Johns Hopkins Nursing community—a place where we support each other, where every voice is valued, and where safety and belonging are at the core of everything we do. Whether you're with us now or have been a part of this journey, you belong here and you're always welcome.

Please enjoy the Spring 2025 issue of
Johns Hopkins Nursing.



Sarah Szanton
PhD, RN, FAAN
Dean, Johns Hopkins School of Nursing
Patricia M. Davidson Professor for
Health Equity & Social Justice



**IF YOU THINK YOU CAN
CHANGE THE WORLD, SO
DO WE. LET'S GET STARTED.**



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Springtime Buds: MSN (Entry into Nursing) classmates and best friends Kara Suarez and Lucas Min pal around outside the entrance to the Emergency Department at Johns Hopkins Hospital, where they will work together after graduation.

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Different Paths to MSN,
but Same Trajectory: Up

Johns Hopkins Nursing
Student House, Room 316
525 N. Wolfe Street
Baltimore, MD 21205

son-editor@jhu.edu
NURSING.JHU.EDU/MAGAZINE

EDITOR
Steve St. Angelo
sstange2@jhu.edu

**ASSOCIATE DEAN OF
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS**
Dana Robinson
drobi112@jh.edu

ART DIRECTION
Orange Element

PHOTOGRAPHY
Daniel Martinez

SOCIAL MEDIA
Sam DiStefano
sdistef3@jhu.edu

COVER & FEATURE ART:
Asia Reynolds
www.reydesignco.com
IG: @rey.illustration

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*Remembering
Gertrude Hodges, first
Black graduate; Leona
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installation; 2025
Rankings; DNP and MSN
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roundup and more.*



Haider and Zahra Rangwalla make the Master's (Entry into Nursing) program a family affair, with Zahra leaving footsteps for her younger brother to follow. Meet them on Page 26.

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Leona B. Carpenter Chair in Health Equity and Social Determinants of Health

Professor Vincent Guilamo-Ramos, PhD, MPH, ANP-BC, FAAN, has been installed as the inaugural Leona B. Carpenter Chair in Health Equity and Social Determinants of Health.

The chair was established in 2022 by the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation. It seeks to eliminate health inequities among communities experiencing marginalization, including underrepresented racial, ethnic, and LGBTQIA+ groups.

“Leona B. Carpenter was a pioneering nurse who inspires us as we intensify the important work to meet unmet needs, eliminate all health and health care inequities, and secure optimal health across our nation,” says Guilamo-Ramos, who joined the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing in January 2024 as executive director of its Institute for Policy Solutions (IPS), the only nurse-led organization of its kind to focus entirely on eliminating inequities in health and health care.

In September 2024, Guilamo-Ramos was asked to present his research and policy recommendations at the White House ¡Adelante! Summit to raise awareness of HIV inequities in the Latino community. He was also a member of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine committee tasked with revisiting the Institute of Medicine’s landmark 2003 Unequal Treatment report on the state of racial and ethnic health care disparities in America. The 2024 update, Ending Unequal Treatment, is now being translated into action at IPS, highlighting

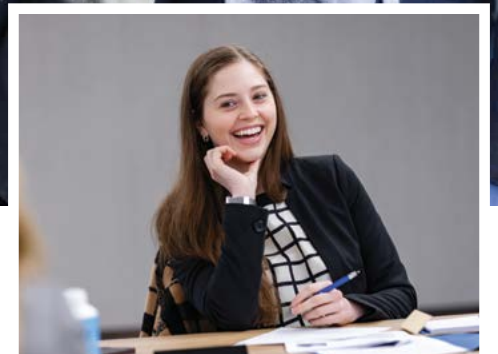
the pivotal role nurses play in eliminating health care inequities.

Guilamo-Ramos’ research and scholarship, grounded in nursing, public health, and social welfare, have focused on family-based prevention and health promotion, particularly among Latinos and other people of color. He has a distinguished track record as principal investigator of research funded by the Centers for Disease Control and National Institutes of Health.

“WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER TO BEST LEVERAGE OUR NATION’S HIGHLY-SKILLED NURSING WORKFORCE TO IMPROVE HEALTH FOR ALL.”

Before joining Johns Hopkins, Guilamo-Ramos held tenured faculty appointments at Columbia, New York University, and Duke. In addition, he has held numerous senior administrative appointments over the past two decades.

“Vincent Guilamo-Ramos is one of contemporary nursing’s most respected thought leaders, scientists, and change agents,” says JHSON Dean Sarah Szanton, PhD, RN, FAAN. “We will continue to work together to best leverage our nation’s highly-skilled nursing workforce to improve health for all.” ■



Professor Vincent Guilamo-Ramos (center) with Donna Futterman, former director of the Adolescent AIDS Program, Children’s Hospital at Montefiore in New York, and Harold Phillips, former director of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy, at the installation.

Inset, PhD student Kathryn Lee of the Nursing Science Incubator for Social Determinants of Health Solutions (N-SISS).

IPS Launches Nursing Science Incubator for Social Determinants of Health Solutions (N-SISS)

Ten widely respected nurse scientists, including Johns Hopkins School of Nursing post-doc Kathryn Lee, have become the first fellows of the Nursing Science Incubator for Social Determinants of Health Solutions (N-SISS), seeking breakthroughs to advance optimal health for all.

N-SISS is a program of the Institute for Policy Solutions (IPS) at the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing with support from the National Institute of Nursing Research. The innovative program is co-directed by Vincent Guilamo-Ramos, PhD, MPH, ANP-BC, FAAN, and Professor Jason Farley, PhD, MPH, ANP-BC, FAAN. Guilamo-Ramos is IPS executive director and endowed chair for health equity and social determinants of health. Farley is endowed chair for leadership and innovation and director of the Center for Infectious Disease and Nursing Innovation.

“Every American feels deep angst about our ailing

health system—and most Americans want a comprehensive cure, a sustainable solution; eliminating health and health care inequities is that sustainable solution,” says Guilamo-Ramos.

The inaugural cohort: Marissa Abram, PhD, PMHNP-BC, CARN-AP, FIAAN, Duke University; Mohammed Alasagheirin, PhD, MA, RN, University of Wisconsin; Michael Cary, PhD, RN, FAAN, Duke University; Rachel DiFazio, PhD, RN, PPCNP-BC, FAAN, Boston Children’s Hospital; Megan Jester, PhD, RN, AHN-BC, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences; Kathryn Lee, PhD, RN, Johns Hopkins School of Nursing; Christina Marea, PhD, MA, MSN, FACNM, Georgetown University; Roxanne Mirabal-Beltran, PhD, RN, Georgetown University; Ann-Margaret Navarra, PhD, CPNP-PC, FAAN, Stony Brook University; and Debra Neblett, PhD, RN, ANP-BC, BC-ADM, University of North Carolina at Greensboro. ■



Gertrude Theresa Hodges (1936-2025)

With grace and humor, **Gertrude Hodges, '59**, the first African American to graduate from the Johns Hopkins Hospital Training School for Nurses (now the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing), made a point—and a habit—of sharing her history and stories with young Black or underprivileged nurses who hoped to follow in her footsteps.

Hodges, born August 3, 1936, died March 28, 2025 at her home in East Baltimore, leaving a legacy of pluck and perseverance.

After going on to earn a master's degree at Columbia Teacher's College, Hodges spent most of her career as nursing faculty of the Community College of Baltimore (now Baltimore City Community College). Through decades of providing health care, teaching, and mentoring, she inspired generations of Baltimore nurses and Johns Hopkins nursing alumni. For her relentless pursuit of excellence in health care education, Hodges was honored with a JHU Distinguished Alumna Award as well as a Black Student Nurses Association scholarship named in her honor.

And all because Hodges had the grit and determination to defy a high school guidance counselor who advised her to forget nursing, questioning whether the profession was even open to Black students. Born into a poultry farm family in Hamptonburgh NY, Hodges recognized a turkey. "I didn't care what anybody said," Hodges recalled. "I knew I wanted to be a nurse since I was 4 years old." She sent a letter inquiring if the Johns Hopkins Hospital Training School for Nurses accepted "colored" students. And the school, then as now, recognized a Hopkins Nurse.

"She knew she was destined to become a nurse—she was named after two aunts who were nurses," her daughter, Lisa R. Hodges-Hiken, told the *Baltimore Sun*. "Her strength, perseverance, and ability to hold herself to a high standard carried her through the experience of being singular at Hopkins."

Survivors include Hodges-Hiken of Baltimore, son Victor Hodges of Columbus, Ohio; stepson James Hodges of Baltimore; and four grandchildren. Her husband, James E. Hodges Jr., died in 1998. ■



JHSON No. 1 for DNP, No. 2 for Master's

The Johns Hopkins School of Nursing (JHSON) has once again been recognized as a national leader in nursing education, earning the No. 1 ranking for its Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program and the No. 2 ranking for its Master's program in the 2025 *U.S. News & World Report* Best Graduate Schools rankings.

In addition to these top honors, JHSON is reinforcing its leadership in nursing education and practice with high rankings across multiple specialty areas:

- **No. 2** in Master's Nursing Administration
- **No. 2** in Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner—DNP
- **No. 2** (tied) in Best Gerontology Primary Care Programs—DNP
- **No. 3** in Family Nurse Practitioner—DNP
- **No. 3** (tied) in Psychiatric/Mental Health Across the Lifespan Nurse Practitioner—DNP
- **No. 3** in Pediatric Primary Care Nurse Practitioner—DNP

"We're continually learning, innovating, and working to equip nurses with the skills to lead with compassion and equity—guided always by our commitment to inclusive excellence," says Dean Sarah Szanton, PhD, RN, FAAN.

JHSON's impact extends beyond rankings, with faculty leading cutting-edge research and scholarship. In 2024, faculty authored 637 peer-reviewed publications, an increase from 578 in 2023, further solidifying JHSON's reputation as a powerhouse in nursing science.

In 2024, the school was honored with its seventh consecutive Health Professions Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award from *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine and recognized as one of the Best Schools for Men in Nursing for the sixth year in a row—reflecting ongoing efforts to create a more inclusive and representative future for health care.

The *U.S. News & World Report* rankings are widely regarded as a leading benchmark for excellence in graduate education, covering prestigious fields such as business, law, medicine, and nursing. Being recognized in these rankings highlights an institution's commitment to the highest standards of education, research, and impact, setting it apart as a leader in shaping the future of its profession. ■

Nursing Remains Most Trusted Profession of All

Over 75 percent of respondents in Gallup's annual Most Honest and Ethical Professions Poll consider nursing the most trusted of all professions. This marks the 23rd consecutive year nurses have earned the top spot in the poll.

Since its addition to the survey in 1999, nursing has taken the top spot in all but one year, 2001, in which firefighters earned the honor in the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

At the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing, we're proud to be leading educators of the next generation of nurses, teaching students how to build trusting relationships in not just the hospital setting, but out in the community as well.

Additionally, nurse practitioner was once again named the No. 1 "Best Job," No. 1 "Best Health Care Job," and No. 1 "Best STEM Job" by *U.S. News & World Report*. ■

MEET STUDENTS FROM THE NO. 1 DNP PROGRAM

As the No. 1-ranked program of its kind in the nation, the Johns Hopkins Doctor of Nursing Practice draws gifted nurses with a drive to lead change. Over the next four pages, we will introduce you to two of them. Look for more student profiles throughout this issue of the magazine and at nursing.jhu.edu/magazine.

She Knows the Score

Having been there, DNP student Euna Yang hopes to nudge ‘lost’ young people toward healthier perspectives on food.

Having suffered the physical and psychological effects of bullying and bulimia for more than a decade—from being labeled “the fat kid” on her native Guam, through undergraduate studies at Carleton College in Minnesota, through dieting culture, unsuccessful eating-disorder programs, and endless family and group therapy sessions—Euna Yang was an empty shell.

“There was this one moment,” she explains. “I was inpatient for a while, and I left for about a week, and I was already slipping and sliding. I was hovering over the toilet, and I had just purged everything that I had eaten, and I was contemplating how much pain, how much suffering this felt like. ‘I’m kind of not really living right now, and I hate this and hate everything that has been happening.’ I had quite lost my way.”

She credits the care and nurturing of a nurse practitioner at the Melrose Center in Minnesota with rescuing her and inspiring within Yang a mission to help others stop the ache, a key part of why she joined the Doctor of Nursing Practice (Psychiatric Mental Health NP) program at Johns Hopkins.

“THERE’S THIS DELICATE BALANCE OF BEING THE FORCE THAT DRIVES PROGRESS AND ALSO BEING ABLE TO GIVE THAT SPACE FOR PEOPLE WHO JUST KIND OF NEED TO TAKE IT ALL IN.”

“She took the time to actually get to know me, to kind of show me, ‘Hey, this is an option for you. I think this will be good,’ and to teach me about the medications,” as opposed to a parade of psychologists “who barely looked up from the clipboards or computer screens to talk to me. I had medications that I had no idea what

they were—I still don’t know what I was on.”

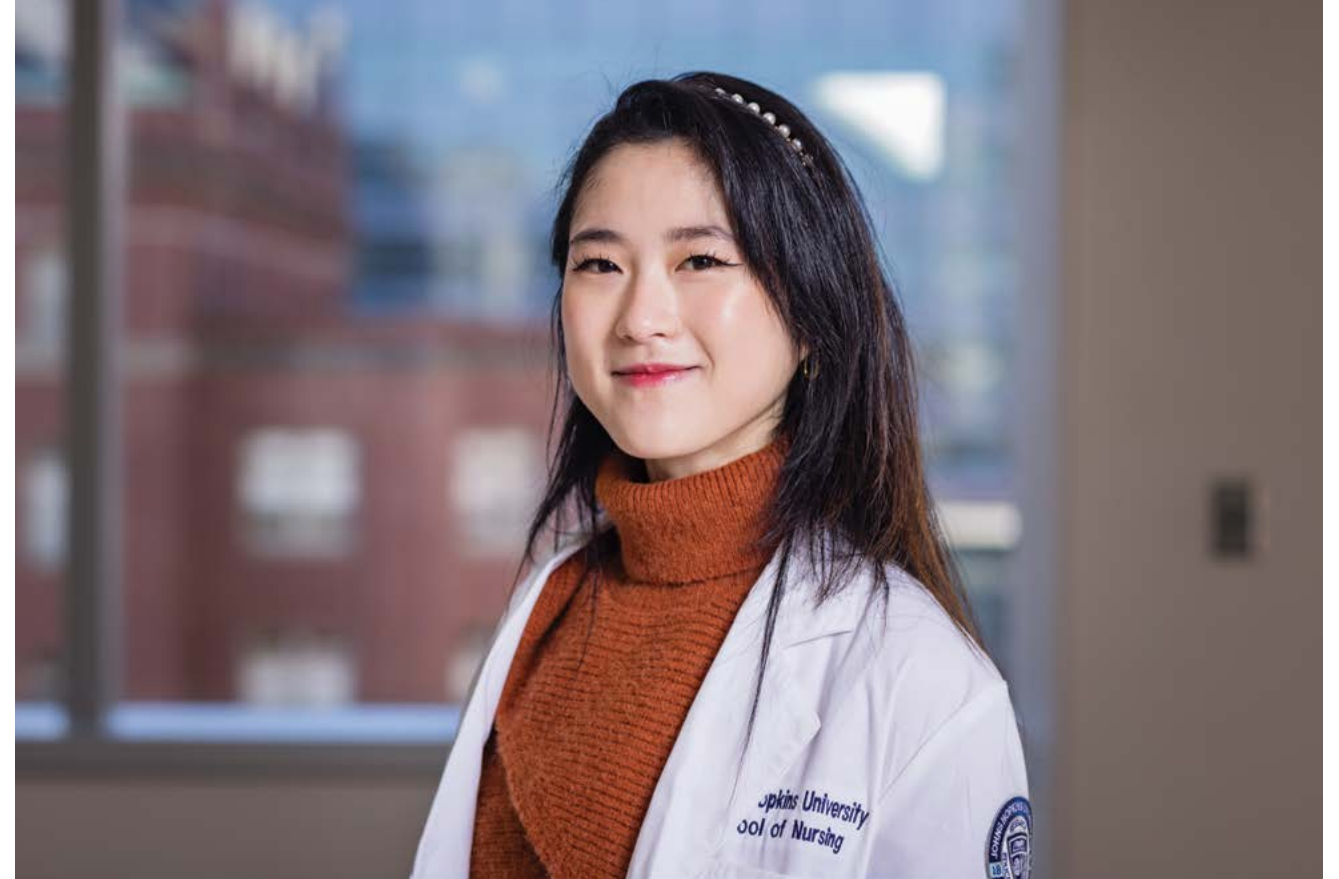
A dietitian and a strength coach continued the rebuilding process. “They helped me reconfigure the way that I saw food as something that is nourishing and helpful, not the enemy. That I can engage with it without feeling a loss of control,” she says.

Today, three and a half years into a recovery that she openly compares to an alcoholic’s sobriety—“You know, I have bad days, and it’s still like background music”—Yang is studying remotely for her DNP while working as an adult psych nurse at a small clinic in the Pacific Northwest. She earned her master’s in nursing from the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing in 2023 and serves as a teaching assistant at the school as well as volunteering with the Birth Companions and as a student group leader with the Chicago Parent Program, listening, empathizing, and sharing positive parenting skills “to hopefully break the cycle.”

“Covering all my bases,” Yang explains of a route that she hopes ultimately will end in pediatrics and early interventions to blunt the patterns that can lead to eating disorders. The path might one day also lead back to Guam. “The island’s quite small. You can drive around it at 35 mph in about three hours. It’s a very tightknit community and there’s not a lot of resources.” Back in the day, she says, the idea of a psychologist working with eating disorders was only that, an idea. The isolation was devastating. “I didn’t even know who to ask for help.” That has improved, she says, but there’s always room for another person to care.

Wherever Yang ends up, there will soon be one more preceptor as well. Frustrated by the shortage—everywhere—of seasoned mentors in nursing, particularly in psych, Yang is determined to help fix that as soon as she’s got enough NP experience to begin sharing.

Meanwhile, she works to embrace the good parts



of her own childhood. Though ultimately brutal on her psyche, Yang’s youth was filled with beautiful sounds that still move her. As a member of the Guam Territorial Band, she toured globally, including a competition at the glorious Sydney Opera House in Australia, where the Guam kids earned the gold and—as Yang remembers—rock star treatment as children from competing orchestras chased the winners’ bus down the street cheering and waving goodbye. “It was so cute!”

Yang’s instrument is, or now mostly was, the flute, “a saving grace as well as one of the prisons I was in. It saved me in that, because I was part of the band, I was able to meet a whole host of amazing people who even to this day I talk with. At the same time, the flute was initially forced upon me. But I grew to love it. It’s quite nostalgic for me now and I really appreciate the chance that I got to do it.”

Though performing is no longer a part of her life, Yang finds peace and, often, tears of joy in the music she once made. She singles out the “Studio Ghibli Medley,” a collection of the works of composer Joe Hisaishi that add even more emotion and delight to beloved Hayao Miyazaki animated films like *Howl’s Moving Castle*, *Spirited Away*, and *Princess Mononoke*.

“I always cry whenever I hear it.” (If you happen to have the score at home, please flip to the section labeled “One Summer’s Day,” and grab a tissue along with her.)

The movies themselves “taught me how to love, about friendship, and about the different facets of humanity ... and also gave me great role models of powerful women who looked like me.”

Hers is a perspective on life and survival that Yang will work passionately to pass on, especially to young people facing demons she has known by name.

“There’s this delicate balance of being the force that drives progress and also being able to give that space for people who just kind of need to take it all in. [Care for eating disorders] is a lot to adjust to. And I think the way of dealing with it is to let the individual be the guiding force. Obviously, treatment won’t work until they themselves want it to work. That’s the case with me. They threw all sorts of family therapy and group therapy at me, and it didn’t really click until I wanted it to.” ■

— Steve St. Angelo



What You Put Your Mind to

DNP student Jenna Hernandez can't fix everything.

That won't stop her from trying.

Jenna Hernandez hopes to become “that person.” A student in the Doctor of Nursing Practice (Psychiatric Mental Health NP) program, she finds herself regularly assigned to problem-solving teams at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. Success and a sense of fulfillment there bred a desire for more.

“They're pointing at you,” she says from LA, where Hernandez lives and works toward such leadership status. “They're looking to you for the answers.”

To hear her bosses, she's getting closer. “My manager is like, ‘Hey, Jenna, I want you to do this quality improvement [QI] project with me.’ I'm like, ‘Me?’ ”

Any such hesitancy is easing as her own confidence and knowledge build. “I feel like they kind of go hand in hand. I'll learn stuff in school, and then I'm better equipped to apply it to my job, where it just makes me a better nurse.”

“Being in the DNP program makes me question everything a little bit more now in terms of, ‘Is this what we should be doing?’ Right now, I'm doing two QI projects and I kind of signed myself up for a third just by being interested in the subject,” she says. “So I'm on a lot, but it's because I know I can use what I've learned in school to help.”

Hernandez grew up in Moorpark, a Ventura County suburb outside LA. Aside from a four-year undergrad stint at the University of Michigan, she's called California home. Family's there, and word has it that the beaches and the weather are kind of nice. “Right?”

And even in its less sunny spaces, California offers beautiful opportunities for a person, and a nurse, hoping to make a difference at every human level.

Her unit, Advanced Heart Failure Progressive Care, is populated with patients who have been through a lot. Some have had a heart transplant; others await one. Some are ineligible for transplant, perhaps because cold, hard evidence suggests an available heart might make a bigger difference inside a patient in less tenuous circumstances. That does not mean the care itself must be anything but warm and compassionate.

So the challenge is psychological as well, and this is where Hernandez the DNP-to-be is honing what could one day be a superpower.

“There was this one patient,” she recalls of a man just shy of homelessness who had been ruled ineligible for a new heart and also suffered from serious

“BEING IN THE DNP PROGRAM MAKES ME QUESTION EVERYTHING A LITTLE BIT MORE NOW IN TERMS OF, ‘IS THIS WHAT WE SHOULD BE DOING?’ ”

obsessive-compulsive disorder. “His life situation was not stable. He didn't have running water or hot water or anything like that. But, he had his cat in this warehouse. ... Ultimately you can't change somebody's life circumstances. I just spent time talking with him.” His OCD meant that “every time I gave him a pillow or a blanket, I'd have to count it, like, ‘one pillow, two pillows, three pillows,’ and if you didn't, he would get so upset. Because I'm in this field [psychology], I maybe understood a little more. OK, whatever I can do to help minimize his anxiety. I can count a pillow.”

Maybe he couldn't be saved, but he could for darned sure feel seen.

Hernandez won't knock caregivers on a busy medical unit who find it difficult to make such overtures or feel awkward or unqualified to have frank, open conversations with those in their care. Rather, she hopes to empower colleagues. She's titled her DNP project “Boosting Nursing Confidence in Discussing Depression and Anxiety with Heart Failure Inpatients.”

“It's just giving nurses the confidence to talk about that,” Hernandez explains. The intervention she's working on would include education through role-playing activities as well as a set of talking points to put caregivers and patients at ease more quickly.

In addition to school and work, she volunteers with Safe Place for Youth, a center for unhoused young people in nearby Venice. Hernandez's own safety net—a respiratory therapist mom and police officer dad—is still just an hour away in Moorpark. She understands the power of stability, of having someone to talk to, to hang out with, to be able to rely on. As her own experience in psychology grows, “I have more of the tool set to be more mindful about how I am interacting and what these young people need from me and how I can be a resource to them.”

Still more than a year from completing her DNP, Hernandez credits the program with leveling up her natural abilities to lead by example and adjust to

real-life medical and life situations that are rarely ideal. (Not yet, anyway. If it needs fixing, Hernandez is probably on it.) “There's a bunch of curveballs that have come my way in this process and I'm figuring them out now. But the DNP gives you the confidence to be able to manage it” ... and be ready the next time a supervisor taps you on the shoulder.

“When I was new, I would always look up at people doing QI projects. ‘Oh, my gosh, they are so much older. They're so smart. I'll never be able to do that.’ Imposter syndrome. And now, shoot, I'm the one people are asking, ‘Oh, how do you do this?’ ”

As for her own mental health, Hernandez has learned a lot there too. “As my time as a nurse has gone on, it's become a lot easier to leave work at work and enter a new mindset when you get home. I remember my first year of nursing, I worked three days a week and came home at least two days a week crying.”

A charge nurse she confided in back then helped put it all in perspective. “What she told herself is, it's OK. You can feel those emotions when you feel them, but it will start to get easier. You will start to see that you are doing your best. You can't fix everything. But you can help and make a big difference.”

Hernandez has kept her personal dial set right there.

“It's that mindset of, ‘I did my best. There's nothing more I could have done.’ And if you do think that there is something more you could have done, write it down, journal, but don't sit there with that on your head. Have a routine that you feel safe and comfortable in,” Hernandez explains, adding that a gym workout, keeping up with friends and family, and an occasional early morning solo by the Pacific Ocean never hurt. “Remember, to take care of other people, you do need to take care of yourself.” ■

— Steve St. Angelo





Icing on the Cake



All the ingredients are coming together for Miriam Peguero. Wait till you see what she does with them.

Saturday mornings were the sweetest for Miriam Peguero. They meant customer pickups at her sister’s Los Angeles-area bakery, where Peguero decorated special-occasion cakes based on a client’s chosen theme or whim. Biggest successes: a Baby Yoda cake pop and, best of all, a Thomas the Tank Engine. “That one looked really legit. I was really proud of it.”

Meanwhile, Peguero also worked as a teacher, tutor, and curriculum developer, and held jobs in sales and consulting. It had all made her financially solid, with a house in Tarzana, a valley suburb about 15 miles from downtown LA. (Peguero admits it can feel like 1,000 miles with traffic.) And each Saturday, she had those happy customers to meet.

But for the graduate of the University of Puerto Rico, where she grew up dreaming of a career as a caregiver, the call of nursing had become harder to resist.

The mortgage was saying “No,” but Peguero’s friends knew her heart was full “Yes.” So they nudged. A friend studying architecture at Columbia University in New York City told her, “There’s this nursing program here, and you should apply.” On the way to meet the Columbia rep, she instead bumped into a recruiter

from the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing (JHSON) and, well ...

The MSN (Entry into Nursing) program at JHSON promised a ticket to pretty much anywhere. Even back to Tarzana, where Peguero still shares—and plans to keep—the dream house with her sister.

“I’m very logistics-aligned and practical,” Peguero explains of her quandary when the acceptance letter arrived. She had been chosen by lottery from thousands of applicants to attend a high-intensity associate nursing program in California, and had already begun classes. “At the same time, I was like, ‘It’s Johns Hopkins!’ Right?”

Right, reassured a nurse friend at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center: “If the only thing that is holding you back is financial, just go.” And, the friend added, “You’re going to love Baltimore.” Peguero confirms that she does adore the city—even the cobblestones of her new Fells Point neighborhood that recently sent her to Johns Hopkins Hospital for surgery on a broken foot after she stepped awkwardly out of a Lyft.

(How were the nurses? “They were all really great,” she reports.)



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IN NURSING, “IT’S ALSO THE DETAILS THAT MAKE PEOPLE FEEL BETTER, HAPPY, AND HEALTHY. THAT’S SPECIAL FOR ME TOO.”

“Living in Baltimore while going to school has been a great learning opportunity,” Peguero says. “That perspective of humanity, of how that community where you live has been set up in a way that is affecting your health care. I can see that in California too. I bring that kind of experience of understanding further how your health has been affected with the experience of being a Hopkins nurse.”

The foot is healing and the financial worries have eased, thanks in part to a Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) scholarship. HRSA offers grants to help solve community needs, and this scholarship “allows me to get a job wherever I live as long as I work with an underserved community,” which has been the plan all along. “Because I’ve been to those health clinics where they need a Spanish speaker [Peguero is fluent] and they don’t have that, and I end up helping people.”

In Tarzana, “I live very close to a big medical area where they serve many different communities.”

Thrown into the Mix

Peguero left Puerto Rico after undergrad (biology) to join a sister headed to California. The cake thing happened once they lured a third, younger sister—trained as a pastry chef at Le Cordon Bleu in

Pasadena—back from Puerto Rico, where she was helping others start baking businesses. Why not have her own in LA?

“Her recipes were traditional Puerto Rican cakes.” And little sister recognized good help when she saw it. “I’ve always been the artsy-crafty one,” Miriam Peguero explains. A quick lesson or three in cake decorating later, the training wheels came off.

“My sister had a lot of confidence in me being able to make things for the first time to sell. It was really thrilling. It’s amazing the things you can do, and I would have never gotten into it if I wasn’t put in the position to do that.”

Peguero finds commonalities between making custom cakes and nursing. “In regards to baking, it’s all the little details and knowing that everything you do will make it special for someone else.” In nursing, “It’s also the details that make people feel better, happy, and healthy. That’s special for me too.” ■

— Steve St. Angelo

Connecting the Dots

On the road to med school, David Reisenauer instead found ‘the perfect profession for me.’

When David Reisenauer talks about nursing, his passion for the profession is unmistakable. A Minnesota native and current MSN (Entry into Nursing) student at the School of Nursing, Reisenauer’s journey into nursing is one of self-discovery and vision.

The path began at the University of Minnesota Rochester, where he pursued his undergraduate studies. Located near the world-renowned Mayo Clinic, the environment allowed Reisenauer to work as a technician on a hematology-oncology and hospice unit. Initially considering medical school, Reisenauer’s experiences working alongside nurses gave him a new perspective on health care.

“What inspired me was the way nurses were able to be so hands-on and connected to their patients,” he explains. “The intuitive way they addressed physical, spiritual, and mental health was captivating.”

A pivotal moment in Reisenauer’s decision to become a nurse came when a colleague pursuing a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree encouraged him to consider nursing. He attended a training session held by this colleague on integrative medicine practices and was the sole participant, allowing him to witness firsthand the holistic impact nurses have.

“She was interested and engaged in our conversation, as though every word mattered. I was in a place where I was unsure of my next steps, and as I talked about my passions and values, she suggested I consider nursing,” he shares. “The advice didn’t feel forced or biased at all, rather it was honest and freeing. It was like all the dots aligned, and I realized this was the perfect profession for me.”

Driven to make a difference, Reisenauer chose the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing for its outstanding reputation, sense of community, and opportunities for personal growth. “Hopkins stood out to me because I felt valued as a person,” he says. “The support from faculty and peers made it an easy choice.”

As a fifth-semester student, Reisenauer has taken advantage of the many programs and opportunities the School of Nursing has to offer, including the Health Systems Science Scholars program, which focuses on process improvement and quality assurance. These experiences have broadened his perspective on health care, helping him see the big picture while honing his ability to collaborate with patients and teams.

A commitment to patient-centered care is evident in his clinical experiences. He recalls a memorable moment working with a non-verbal patient where, through creative problem-solving, Reisenauer devised a communication system involving frequently used gestures and a whiteboard. “Seeing the relief and gratitude on the patient’s face was incredibly rewarding, and reaffirmed why I chose nursing.”

Looking ahead, Reisenauer plans to work in an intensive care unit (ICU), a setting that aligns with his desire for a challenging, fast-paced environment.

“The ICU represents the pinnacle of critical thinking in nursing,” he explains. “You see immediate impacts and can make a profound difference in people’s lives.”

Reisenauer’s long-term goal is to become a certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA), combining his interest in technical precision, patient advocacy, and pain management to further illuminate the holistic perspective that drew him to the field of nursing in the first place.

“THE SENSE OF COMMUNITY HERE IS AMAZING. I’VE GROWN SO MUCH, BOTH PERSONALLY AND PROFESSIONALLY.”

Beyond academics, Reisenauer has embraced Baltimore’s vibrant culture. Whether exploring its diverse culinary scene or enjoying an Orioles game at Camden Yards, he cherishes the connections he’s made in this dynamic city.

“The sense of community here is amazing,” he says. “I’ve grown so much, both personally and professionally.”

As Reisenauer prepares to graduate this spring, he is ready to take all of the skills he has acquired to the next step in his career, driven by the many lessons learned and the people who have inspired him along the way. ■

— Sam DiStefano



Listening, Speaking, and Stepping Up

Lucas Min is not shy about caring for people and all kinds of music.

Your first full-time job at New York University Abu Dhabi is as housing manager during the dark, early days of COVID. Quarantine protocols have begun a forced isolation that only heightens college students' anxieties—and your own.

As that guy, Lucas Min could do little beyond calling the Middle East equivalent of 911 to get help when a student suffered a panic attack and hyperventilated—only to witness a dismissive EMT inform the traumatized student that she was acting like a baby.

It was too much. Having fulfilled a three-year contract in Abu Dhabi, Min decided to go home to Southern California and think about a better way to make a difference in the world. If that meant yet another career turn, away from environmental science (bachelor's degree from California's University of Redlands) and higher ed (master's in educational leadership from Montclair State University in New Jersey), so be it. He would no longer stand by and watch people suffer.

The memory guides Min's efforts and activities at the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing (JHSON)—especially

in clinicals—where the MSN (Entry into Nursing) program is preparing him to be the care provider who he wishes had showed up in Abu Dhabi.

"I really try my best to listen to my patients and then empathize and understand from their perspectives," Min explains of the "human-to-human" nurse-patient dynamic that he seeks. "I would never say that I understand what they're going through, because I am not them. I've never been in that place." It takes practice, self-awareness, and humility. But when this approach works, Min realizes that he's found his happy place. "I specifically remember from my first semester, when I was done with the vital signs and everything, the patient says to me, 'I need to talk to your clinical instructor.' And it was that moment of, 'Oh my god, red alert! What did I do wrong?' I'm pacing outside the room. My clinical instructor comes out and just has the biggest smile."

The patient had raved about Min's care, explaining that he had felt seen and genuinely cared about by the nursing student. In a later clinical session, another patient stopped just shy of proposing marriage.

"I REALLY TRY MY BEST TO LISTEN TO MY PATIENTS AND THEN EMPATHIZE AND UNDERSTAND FROM THEIR PERSPECTIVES."

It's all music to his ears. Or more music, anyway. A love of K-Pop is sort of a birthright for Min, who left his native South Korea at age 10 for Southern California. The unapologetically upbeat band TWICE tops his hit list. But he's always seeking new musical experiences in various genres, scouring tour dates for a chance to witness a new group that might enrich him.

Meantime, Min has a gig where the music comes to him—as graduate hall director at the Peabody Institute, the music-education wing of Johns Hopkins University. "I'm the only non-music student who lives and eats with the Peabody students," he says. Min tried his hand(s) at piano as a youngster. They refused to cooperate. The rest of his being can't get enough.

"This semester is really exciting because my RAs will be doing their junior or senior recitals, so I'm excited to be able to go and support them. As part of the community, I have the luxury of going and listening to the wonderful things Peabody puts on."

Min credits many of his lucky breaks—including the Peabody job, which helps with JHU tuition—to networking. For an introvert by nature, that's really saying something. And so Min does, out loud, to anyone who wants or needs to hear it. "Networking is absolutely the best things people can do."

"In undergrad, I recognized that I didn't really grow up having or sharing my own opinion. I kept it to myself. I noticed that doesn't really get me anywhere," Min explains. "I'm still working on it. I have a hard time making small talk. It was just very hard for me to connect with people."

Tired of holding himself back, "I applied to be an RA." The position forced Min to run meetings, be engaged and talk to people, and be a leader. It was difficult. "I had a horrible anxiety about speaking in front of people, so I forced myself," making presentations at regional, national, and international conferences in the higher education realm. "Those were the moments when I really pushed myself to be out there, speaking with people from many different parts of the world."

The reward was his global network, which keeps growing ... even beyond this earthly realm.

"I'm a huge gamer," Min says of his love for League of Legends, an online battle game in which he enlists and competes with friends from all the way back in high school. "As an introvert, that's a perfect way to stay home, not talk about nursing, not talk about school, and be with people who are not here in Baltimore."

'Plethora of Opportunities'

Apart from those mini-breaks, Min, who will join the staff of the Johns Hopkins Hospital emergency department after May graduation, is grateful that he is in Baltimore.

"Honestly, I am so happy and thankful that I chose the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing MSN over other programs. It's just the plethora of opportunities outside of academia." He mentions honors groups and various clubs as well as his positions with the Student Senate and as a student nurse at Greater Baltimore Medical Center. "Faculty members are always checking in on you. 'How are you doing? How are we doing? Are you taking care of yourself?' It speaks volumes about what their priorities are: the student body rather than just numbers. I have some friends who are going through other programs right now—all they're talking about, all of their focus is just getting a certain grade for their classes. There's nothing outside of that, which is very unfortunate."

JHSON, by comparison, "really encompasses the holistic growth within the student. Which I appreciate because yes, at the end of the day, we're all trying to become nurses. We are going to be knowledgeable. But if we can't connect with our patients through different avenues, then what are we doing? We're treating them transactionally." ■

— Steve St. Angelo

Shout It from the Mountaintops

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Kara Suarez works to be a powerful voice for those in her care.

Kara Suarez was amazed. A six-plus hour bus ride from Accra, Ghana, in the hottest, most humid time of the year, at the hottest part of the day, across vast plains, past fields of mango trees, through tiny villages and one broken fan belt, along dense hillsides, and finally up a mountain, and she felt ... invigorated.

Suarez, a member of the MSN (Entry into Nursing) program, had signed up for the trip through the Center for Global Initiatives (CGI), where she's also an intern, with previous experience in such health missions, having been to Guatemala with a group from JHSON. She'd seen a tight band of nurse leaders and students provide excellent, holistic care in under-resourced areas before.

This was somehow another world altogether. Beneath a long, open-sided tent, a community was being seen, heard, treated, even healed, but on a scale that blew Suarez's mind. The volunteer team of caregivers included MSN, PhD, and CRNA students, plus nurse practitioners, mental health and women's health consultants, and midwives, as well as wound-care specialists. "I didn't expect us to have such an interprofessional, collaborative health care team. I don't know how Dr. [Yvonne] Commodore-Mensah did that, but she just created a powerhouse of a team to travel to this mountainous region."

The gathering, organized by Commodore-Mensah, PhD, MHS, RN, FAAN, a Ghana native and JHSON professor, was a church-based community health fair in an extremely rural part of the Volta Region a long, long way from regular access to medical care. The contrast with the more cosmopolitan capital city Accra could not have been more stark.

Suarez embraced every second, despite the unrelenting sweat and the sore backside from the bus ride. And coming on the heels of an admittedly

challenging first year of nursing school, the Ghana trip turned out to be healing—and grounding—for Suarez too. "It was so emotional, and so restorative," she says. "We were going to conferences, learning how to network with these university partnerships, learning the value of sustainability in health care as how we can really preserve a community, and learning the intersectionality in health care between countries."

She uses an "it's about the journey, not the destination" analogy to describe both the arduous route to the Volta Region and her path toward graduation from the JHSON master's program: "It's a beautiful process to be in, and it's a privilege to be here."

Support System

That appreciation is something Suarez is determined to keep up, having openly discussed her fears as well as her dreams with mentors (including Angela Chang Chiu, DNP, MS, RN, assistant professor and assistant director of student experiences for CGI). Suarez knows the statistics on burnout and staffing shortages, that demands of the U.S. health care system can leave nurses with "compassion fatigue," and that people being cared for can walk away feeling they've somehow been an inconvenience. She's witnessed that dynamic as a student nurse in a non-Johns Hopkins adult emergency department.

Caregivers "have our own agenda. We want to get through our to-do list," she explains. It can be easy to forget Job 1 on that clipboard: "It's OK you are here. That's why we are here." Once she's gained a few years of experience in the emergency department, Suarez hopes to go on to a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree. Her planned focus, unsurprisingly: "Everything stems from patient advocacy."

For today, the answer she keeps coming back to, for

***"IT'S A BEAUTIFUL
PROCESS TO BE IN,
AND IT'S A PRIVILEGE
TO BE HERE."***

herself as well as those she serves and will serve, is "intentional, compassionate care" that includes improvement of her nonverbal as well as verbal communication skills. "Not just to serve the people in terms of health care but really bring their voice out to communicate what they need. ... I'm going to get down with you at eye level. We're going to have this conversation. And when I ask, 'Do you have any questions?' I'm here to answer. And they know that I mean that."

When in doubt, on just about anything and everything on the health care spectrum, Suarez can lean on her folks back home in San Diego or extended family in the Cebu region of the Philippines, where Mom grew up and trained as a nurse. And where, as in the Volta Region of Ghana, "the closest hospital was going down a mountain." (Dad's a nurse too, of the U.S. military variety.) "Optometrists, psychiatrists ... honestly, anything you can think of in health care, my family has probably done," she jokes.

San Diego is a tough place to say goodbye to for too long. "There's nothing that says it's home more than my mom and my dad's home-cooked Filipino food." (Favorites: Chicken adobo and Filipino spaghetti.) And though Suarez hopes to one day provide care in a global capacity, she'll cross that bridge later—for now, she's simply preparing to cross the street to a post in the emergency department at Johns Hopkins Hospital that awaits after her graduation.

She'll walk into the nursing profession with her eyes open. Just as importantly, her ears will be too. ■

— Steve St. Angelo

Out of the Blue

Favour Oloriegbe leans into her faith, watching for signs big and small.

As a University of Kansas freshman, Favour Oloriegbe was on a road trip, passing through Baltimore on the way to visit relatives, when she saw a sign that changed her life:

Johns Hopkins.

And just like that ... “I’m going to go there.” Her surprised and very skeptical companions scoffed. What did she know about Baltimore? And Johns Hopkins University? She was a new arrival to the United States from Lagos, Nigeria, still learning her way around Lawrence KS. Johns Hopkins ... yeah, right.

Fast forward to junior year. An email brought a survey gauging student interest in continuing education. Oloriegbe dutifully filled it out, not expecting much ... especially not a letter of interest from the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing. But there it was, clear as a neon sign on a city skyline.

She graduated KU with honors and a degree in behavioral neuroscience and went home to Nigeria to think and plan next steps on her journey. And to pray on it.

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For Oloriegbe, service—to humanity and to her faith—is No. 1. Coming of age in Nigeria, she had seen and experienced a health care system that lags behind that of other nations largely because nurses do not feel their worth or know their power to heal both people and processes. She knew Johns Hopkins would take her away from Nigeria once again (“I’m a Nigerian, and will always be a Nigerian”), but then it could also send her back home prepared to do something bigger than herself. She jumped in with both feet.

“My faith drives everything that I do,” explains Oloriegbe, president of the Fellowship of Christian Nurses at Johns Hopkins. “There’s a verse in the Bible that I love so much. And it says, ‘He that’s faithful in little will be faithful in much.’ That verse always reminds me to be faithful when no one’s watching, to do the right thing when no one else is seeing, to show up to work ready to serve, to have integrity in my class work, because God sees that.”

As a nurse, it also means that when you can’t fix everything—such as overwhelming socioeconomic woes that might be denying an individual in her care the best opportunity to heal—find something you can do, and go from there.

“What is the ‘little’ that God is calling me here to right now? I’m going to be faithful with that, and I’m going to be faithful with that every single day. And who knows, maybe one day I’ll get that ‘much’ opportunity. That’s what drives my compassion. It carries me.”

“THIS IS A TRULY LIFE-CHANGING OPPORTUNITY, THE AMOUNT OF INFORMATION THAT I HAVE BECAUSE I WENT TO THIS SCHOOL.”

Oloriegbe is not overly concerned that others might not agree with, understand, or even necessarily welcome her open faith, echoing one of her dad’s favorite lines: “No one is ever going to resist kindness.”

She adds: “No one is ever going to resist joy. No one is ever going to resist peace. No one is ever going to resist forgiveness. No one is ever going to resist humility and patience. Whether you’re a Christian, a Muslim, or don’t believe in anything at all.” Her father’s words serve as a reminder that these are not just religious

ideals but universal values that bless and connect all people. For her, they are part of the foundation that allows her to live out her faith with confidence, without worrying about how others may receive it.

‘Wide Doorway’

Meanwhile, Oloriegbe will work to build her clinical skills and keep stretching herself into the nurse, colleague, and leader she’s fast becoming.

“Since I’ve gotten into Johns Hopkins and progressed in my program, it struck me, ‘Man, this is a wide door of opportunities.’ It excites me. And it feels like I’m only about to step into that wide doorway. This is a truly life-changing opportunity, the amount of information that I have because I went to this school.”

And the experience keeps expanding. “I just witnessed my first birth,” she reports, joking, “This last 24 hours has done something to my mind.” Last semester, “I got to sit with someone who was dying. ... From the birth to the end, it’s such a great opportunity to be there, and everything in between. The skills that they’re giving us are empowering us to do that. They tell you in your first semester that your brain is going to change, but it doesn’t hit you until, ‘Whoa. I’m thinking like a nurse.’ Long-term, wide-scape.”

And if the signs do one day point her home—“I’m figuring that out as I go through my last couple of semesters”—Oloriegbe will work to persuade nurses in Nigeria to think alike. She hopes to be a symbol to a work force that knows little of the opportunities and interprofessional cooperation present in top U.S. health systems.

“For sure, for sure, I want to contribute to that health care system at the macro level. There’s a lot of restructuring and educating that needs to be done in Nigeria, especially with nursing. Because right now we have a very burdened system, but there are still all these people who need good care. And nursing can be a strength that can help to yank that health care system up. I feel like nurses there really need that wake-up call”—she snaps her fingers—“What you’re doing truly has purpose, has impact!” But it’s just not seen like that.”

Little first, then much. ■

— Steve St. Angelo

Someone Who Can Relate

Zahra Rangwalla happily leaves a trail for brother Haider to follow. He's embracing the insights.

Zahra Rangwalla almost let the opportunity to join the MSN (Entry into Nursing) program at the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing (JHSON) slip through her fingers. She wasn't about to let her younger brother Haider make the same (almost) mistake.

"I have a really good friend, and he dared me to apply. 'I'll pay your application fee.' And I told him, 'You're gonna waste your money.' I didn't think I'd get in," she explains. "And he's like, 'OK, I'm willing to take that bet on you.'"

He won that wager. Still, Rangwalla wavered, showing up to Accepted Students Day with one foot remaining outside the door. She'd done her homework before heading to Baltimore. Top-ranked program, check. Amazing faculty and happy, well-employed alumni, check and check. Yeah, but ...

"WHENEVER I'M GOING THROUGH A TOUGH CLASS, IT'S LIKE, 'ALL RIGHT, MY SISTER GOT IT. I CAN TOO.'"

Anyway, up walks the student ambassador of the year, who proceeds to maybe oversell JHSON just a smidgen: "You're gonna have so much free time!" Nevertheless, "his enthusiasm and positivity really just drew me. The more I learned about faculty, the more about staff, even looking at the campus ... 'Oh, I have to do this.'"

Fast forward a few semesters, and it was Zahra doing the cheerleading. Haider Rangwalla had

been accepted to the Master's Entry program and came to Baltimore to check the place out. The weather extremes spooked him, and still do. "We're from Southern California," says Haider of their temperate hometown, Riverside. Determined not to let him waffle as she did, Zahra called in the troops.

"My friends and I just gave him the full Baltimore Experience: We went bowling. We took him to the best restaurants, our favorite bars. We have our Taco Tuesday traditions with my friend group, so we adopted my little brother like, 'You're part of us.' It was a good time."

Good enough that Haider decided to overlook any hot-and-cold impressions of Baltimore, focus on Johns Hopkins and its people, and embrace the decided advantages of having a sister who'd already experienced much of what he was about to go through. It sure beat what he had been doing: "I was working as a home inspector and doing other stuff over the last two years and was thinking, you know, 'This is not me.' I didn't want that for the rest of my life."

Besides, the profession had been calling to him since, well, Mom was pregnant with him as she worked toward her own associate's degree in nursing. (He arrived during finals week, of course.)

Today, while Zahra looks eagerly toward May graduation—"It was a great program. I've loved every second of it. But I think I'm ready to move on and go work"—she's happily providing White Coat-tails for her brother to keep riding on from there. Both are basically following in their mother's footsteps, headed



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toward careers in pediatrics. A children's hospital nurse for about 15 years, Mom now works as a lactation consultant.

Baby Steps

The job hunt for Zahra starts with a list of pediatric intensive care units. She did her practicum at Johns Hopkins Hospital's PICU and felt right at home. "Kids are just my favorite. And then I love the intensity of the ICU," she explains, calling herself passionate and extremely particular or even a bit OCD, a type A personality who thrills at the sight of "all the bags and IV lines and everything just so organized and hung up correctly."

Haider's focus on pediatrics is a bit more theoretical at this point in his program. "I want pediatrics," he explains. "Whether that's going be an ICU floor or whatever is still up in the air. I haven't actually done an ICU anything, so I think I want to actually experience that before I decide anything."

Not to worry. Zahra is certain to report back from the PICU. "I'm sure he'll beg me to be quiet about it."

And Haider is cool with making the most of his cheat code while he still can.

"Whenever I'm going through a tough class, it's like, 'All right, my sister got it. I can too,' that kind of thing." As members of separate cohorts, the siblings don't bump into each other all that often at school, but afterward, she's just one floor down and one room over at the Essential, an apartment complex designed for Johns Hopkins students. If he's got a question on a key point in the curriculum, Zahra can spell it out for him. "That's awesome," he admits.

For her part, Big Sister is simply paying it forward. "If I can be a guide for Haider and his friends, I'd love that because, when I started the program, it just so happened where I had a friend from high school who started a semester before me. I remember leaning on him so heavily for what to expect and how to successfully navigate the program. Just remembering how much I appreciated it, I'm more than happy to do that for my brother. I only want the best for him." ■

— Steve St. Angelo



Following His Heart



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to incorporate science into what I do, but I want more social interactions, that human-to-human lifestyle kind of a thing.”

In nursing, his lab science background would be a plus, “but I could also be with people, be able to help them, hang out with them, and chat with them. I still do research now. I just love being involved in a clinical setting as well.”

“I WANTED TO DO SOMETHING THAT GAVE ME SOME SENSE OF PURPOSE.”

Another clear passion is staying busy. “I know my time here at Johns Hopkins is fairly limited, so I wanted to make sure to take advantage.” And so he has, as a tutor, teaching and research assistant, and as vice president for interschool relations for the JHSON Student Senate.

“I do a lot of meetings with the Schools of Public Health and Medicine and also the Homewood graduate programs—just get together and plan something for all the students to be able to interact. Collaboration between future public health specialists, nurses, doctors, and pharmacists is essential.”

In spring 2024, Abou Shahla co-launched the Integrative Medicine Interest Group with fellow student Nicole Calcagno (who serves with him on the Student Senate Executive Board as well) to help shift a focus away from symptom management above all else. The group brings in guest speakers from across the preventive care spectrum, sprinkling in yoga and acupuncture instructors “to teach us in different ways that we can take care of our bodies before we get to an illness.” At 100 members so far, the group might just be onto something.

A job as pediatric ICU nurse at Georgetown University Hospital also awaits.

On top of all this, Abou Shahla is part of the Nursing Research Honors Program working with Assistant Professor Rebecca Wright, PhD, BSC (Hons), RN, on demystifying

palliative care by untangling the research to date. “We go over every single paper that was ever written about palliative care, and we categorize them—we’re building this taxonomy, this big, big chart, organizing it better so people can start building on it.”

In many ways, all of this positive energy is driven by memories from those darkest days of Abou Shahla’s life, moments when he felt powerless. Like the September 2021 death of his California host father from COVID-19. In his despair, “I wanted to do something that gave me some sense of purpose.” A friend’s phone call from Lebanon provided hope.

The Novick Cardiac Alliance, a foundation based in Memphis TN that performs heart surgery on needy children across the globe, was headed toward Rashaya and seeking extra hands. Abou Shahla raced home to volunteer and “was exposed to culturally diverse people working together for the first time.” Amazed and reinvigorated by Novick’s mission, Abou Shahla made it his own: destroy cultural and economic barriers to care through global health; help young people dream of better lives. In Baltimore, and soon at Georgetown, he’s getting to practice.

Giving Back

“Now that I’m approaching the end of this program, I feel like it’s actually happening. Now, I go to the hospital and I have actually been able to leave an impact on a pediatric patient’s life. And I love that.”

Longer term? “Get my PhD and DNP so I can one day start a pediatric nurse practitioner program in Lebanon,” he explains, pointing to a dire shortage of physicians in Lebanon with no NPs to help bridge the gap. Abou Shahla points to an established relationship between JHSON and the American University of Beirut’s nursing program as a possible pathway. “That’s where I came from and I just want to give back to that community.” ■

— Steve St. Angelo

By leaving Lebanon, Hikmat Abou Shahla gained the power to provide hope and healing, here and back home.

Well-versed in inhumanity, Hikmat Abou Shahla decided to push toward the opposite extreme, love—of science, leadership, hard work, and ... fellow humans.

“I come from Rashaya, Lebanon, a very small town about 30 minutes from the Syrian border, but also one mountain away from Palestine,” explains the Master’s (Entry into Nursing) student. “So, it’s kind of like in the middle of all of it.”

Meaning endless conflict between regional neighbors; a decades-long recovery from Lebanon’s own ruinous civil war; man-made disasters like a 2020 chemical explosion in Beirut that killed hundreds and injured thousands including Abou Shahla, a first responder (“after barely starting my surgical tech training program in Lebanon”). He remembers hiding at a grandmother’s house at age 4 from incoming missiles and, later, surviving a vicious personal assault.

Abou Shahla has seen and felt shocking violence.

Somehow, his affection for people has only grown.

At 14, Abou Shahla first experienced life outside Lebanon, spending the 2017 school year in the Northern California town of Oroville through the Youth Exchange & Study (YES) program. He calls it a mix of challenges and growth within the community and his beloved California host family. He then returned to Lebanon to finish high school, apply for college, and greatly miss the openness—and even the (admittedly fair) parental scoldings—of that second family.

California State University, Chico is conveniently close by Oroville. The choice to attend almost made itself. As for nursing, Abou Shahla discovered it in a Chico State lab.

“I studied molecular biology and did my minor in organic chemistry. It was a crazy mistake,” he laughs, “but I spent a lot of that time doing research, and that’s when I realized that I want something different. I want

Culture, Compassion, and Care

Phoebe Keryte felt seen and heard at JHSON, and found a place to honor and grow her Indigenous heritage.

In her own words (and language):

“Yá’á’tééh shí éí Phee-Bah-She yinishyé. Naasht’ezhí Tachii’nii nishlí, kiis’áanii báshíshchíín, Diné lizhiní dashícheii adóó kiis’áanii dashínáí. Ahéhéé. Hello, my name is Phee-bah-seh, I am Zuni and Red Streak Running into water people clan, born for Isleta and Santa Pueblo. My maternal grandfather is Black Sheep clan, and my paternal grandfather is Isleta Pueblo. My Tiwa name Phee-bah-seh translates to When the Rain Clouds Pile on Top of Each Other.”

For Phoebe Keryte, nursing is more than a profession—it is a way to serve her community, honor her heritage, and create lasting change in Indigenous health care. Her nursing journey is as rich and layered as the cultural heritage she proudly embraces. She brings a unique perspective shaped by her experiences growing up in Isleta Pueblo and on the Navajo Nation, both tribes located in the Southwest in what is now known as New Mexico. She comes from a matrilineal society where the leadership of women is central to community well-being. Her path to nursing has been guided by a desire to bridge traditional knowledge with modern health care practices.

Keryte can trace her interest in nursing back to her childhood, visiting the Albuquerque Veterans Hospital with her father, a disabled veteran. She recalls the exceptional care the nurses provided along with their compassion, communication, and cultural humility.

“They explained everything in terms we could understand,” she says. “It made a lasting impression on me.”

However, it was not until Keryte began her undergraduate studies that she truly felt the allure of scrubs and latex gloves.

She attended Northwest Indian College, a

tribal college on the Lummi Reservation in the Pacific Northwest, where she initially considered a degree in environmental science. However, working closely with families and young children in an early learning center helped her realize her passion for health care. Through these experiences, Keryte saw firsthand the vital role nurses play in advocating for and supporting patients.

This impression led Keryte to get her feet wet as a medical technician and caregiver at the Isleta Pueblo Assisted Living and Memory Care Unit. Working there brought her closer to her own culture and solidified her decision to pursue nursing.

“Many elders immediately recognized me as a familiar face and would speak in our Tiwa language,” she says. “It was a wholesome experience, building relationships and learning the language while addressing the barriers they faced.”

Keryte’s commitment to Indigenous health led her to the Johns Hopkins Center for Indigenous Health, where she worked before enrolling in the School of Nursing’s MSN (Entry into Nursing) program. She was drawn to Johns Hopkins not just for its reputation but the strong Indigenous community she found there. Attending the annual Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) blanket ceremony at

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On October 14, the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing and the Indigenous Student Nurses and Allies Association (ISNAA) recognized Indigenous Peoples Day with a celebration centered on food sovereignty and traditional knowledge. Phoebe Keryte, center, is chairperson of the ISNAA. Learn more and see additional photos at nursing.jhu.edu/indigenous.

the School of Nursing affirmed her belief that Hopkins was where she belonged. “Seeing Indigenous leaders and knowing the Center for Indigenous Health was already established made me feel seen and heard,” she shares.

Creating a Space

Once she had enrolled, Keryte’s passion for community and advocacy led her to establish the Indigenous Student Nurses and Allies Association, which fosters community and advocates for Indigenous health care perspectives. Despite initial hesitation, she received encouragement from fellow students and realized the importance of creating a space for Indigenous nursing students.

“When another Indigenous student saw me at the White Coat Ceremony, they immediately connected with me. It felt right to build that community,” she says.

She also played a role in incorporating Indigenous knowledge into broader discussions about health care, collaborating with other student groups like the Adventure

Medicine Team and the Latinx Health Club.

Keryte will graduate this spring and has her heart set on labor and delivery care. As a recipient of the prestigious Indian Health Service scholarship—dedicated to shaping the next generation of health care leaders—she is committed to returning to work within tribal communities. Keryte aims to support and empower Indigenous matriarchs as well as Two Spirit and trans people who give birth.

Down the road, Keryte aspires to continue her nursing education to revitalize cultural midwifery practices and mentor future Indigenous nurses. “I want to explore how our ancestors cared for birthing mothers and integrate that knowledge with Western medicine,” she explains.

With a heart for service and a vision for change, Keryte is shaping the narrative of what Indigenous health care is and what it can become. ■

— Sam DiStefano

Nancy Reynolds Takes Reins at CUGH



Professor Nancy Reynolds, PhD, RN, FAAN, associate dean for global affairs, has become chair of the Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH). The organization supports more than 200 academic institutions and associations dedicated to addressing global health challenges. Reynolds previously held the position of vice chair, as well as serving on CUGH’s board of directors and as co-chair of the organization’s workforce capacity building subcommittee.

Reynolds is director of the Center for Global Initiatives at the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing and co-director of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Nursing Information, Knowledge Management.

With more than 20 years of continuous funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Reynolds has researched chronic illness self-management, particularly HIV, and how low-cost cellphone technology can enhance provision of health services to vulnerable populations. In Ghana and India, Dr. Reynolds has implemented programs to improve medication adherence and mental health outcomes of women and children living with HIV.

She has served regularly as a member of the scientific review groups—HIV special sections—at NIH and is a member of the Sigma Theta Tau International Researcher Hall of Fame. Reynolds has also provided leadership to global health projects sponsored by USAID, the Clinton Foundation, World Bank/Jhpiego, and Fogarty. ■

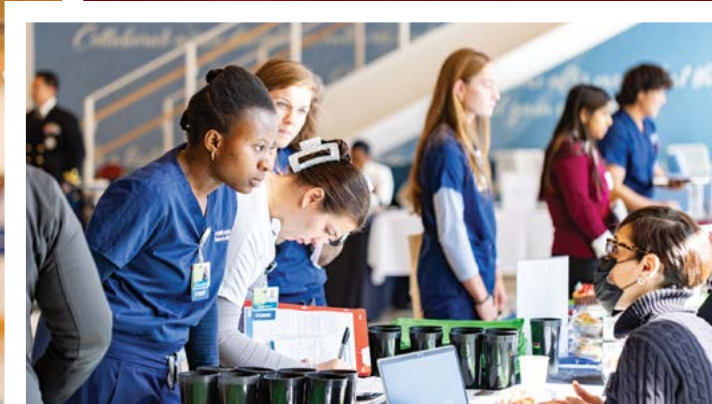
2025 LAVINIA DOCK LECTURE: Professor Jessica Gill

Bloomberg Distinguished Professor Jessica Gill, PhD, MSN, FAAN, a leading expert in the biological mechanisms of traumatic brain injuries (TBI), has spent decades studying varied patient responses to TBIs and identifying biomarkers to predict long-term effects like PTSD and depression.

The first nurse to receive the prestigious Lasker Clinical Research Scholar Award, Gill was selected to give the fifth-annual Lavinia Dock Lecture in March, delving into her research on biomarkers to enhance diagnosis, predict recovery outcomes, and personalize treatments. TBIs, often linked to military service, sports, and community violence, can lead to cognitive decline and other long-term neurological issues. Her research advocates for a holistic approach.

With advancements in AI-driven diagnostics and biomarker research, Gill reports, the future of TBI care is moving toward more accurate, accessible, and patient-centered treatments. ■





Around the SON

Facing page: A Chinese New Year celebration fills JHSON with bright colors and spirits. This page, clockwise from top, two images from Nurses Wear Red Day (part of the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women campaign), raising awareness for cardiovascular health; students gather career information in the Hub; looking A-OK through virtual reality goggles at the Sims Lab; Laura Lucas and Krysia Hudson play tag team as co-leaders of the Outside Track of the MSN (Entry into Nursing) program, which allows students to experience clinicals entirely outside the hospital setting, in offices, schools, hospice facilities, and elsewhere. More images from Around the SON are at nursing.jhu.edu/flickr. ■



DAISY winners from across the Johns Hopkins Health System; meet new Johns Hopkins Hospital CNO Sharon Smyth; and update from Deborah Baker

Brittany Kubkowski of Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital in Florida was recognized with a DAISY Award in September 2024. Meet many of her fellow DAISY winners from across the Johns Hopkins Health System beginning on Page 40. Even more photos are at nursing.jhu.edu/daisy.

JH NURSE

NEW CNO SHARON SMYTH	38
DAISY AWARDS	40
DEBORAH BAKER	43



NEWS FROM **JOHNS HOPKINS HOSPITAL & AFFILIATES**

Go Time for CNO Sharon Smyth

For JHH Nursing's new leader, the choice came down to the perfect job or the perfect moment.

Sharon Smyth, DNP, RN, was at Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center, leading an all-engines-full push toward the finish line on Magnet designation. “We were just kind of on this great momentum,” she explains. Then Johns Hopkins Hospital, the flagship facility of Johns Hopkins Health System, posted a job opening. “To be the CNO of a world-leading organization, you have to take that opportunity when it comes.”

Smyth threw her hat in the ring, betting on the team and staff she'd built over three and a half years at Bayview as well as herself. They could handle it (Bayview will submit the official application later this year), and how could she lose?

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“If I didn't get the position, it was a win. I get to stay at Bayview doing a job [CNO and vice president of nursing] that I absolutely loved. If I did get the position, it was a great career opportunity and I get to come home to JHH.”

She got it, of course, the last nurse leader standing after a national search. And today, Smyth is a couple of months into the post, one half of the dual role held for eight years by Deborah Baker, DNP, AG-ACNP, NEA-BC, FAAN. The transition will enable Baker to focus on her system-level role as senior vice president for nursing for the Johns Hopkins Health System. (“I've still got her on speed dial,” Smyth jokes.)

YOU DON'T HAVE TO KNOW EVERYTHING IN ORDER TO LEAD.

It's a job that Smyth, born and raised in England, had been stretching toward since she arrived at JHH from Yale New Haven Health in Connecticut, recruited to Baltimore to serve as senior director of nursing for emergency medicine over JHH as well as Bayview. Or really since her bedside days in the emergency department, where she got her first taste, and tests, of

leadership. “I was that very clinically savvy nurse,” she says. “I was in charge of a busy emergency department. I precepted. Ninety-nine percent of the things that came through the door I could deal with, and I enjoyed that. ... But having an influence at a higher level became intriguing to me.”

Smyth “dangled my toes into it” with an assistant nurse manager position and a return to school for a more advanced degree. A mentor at Yale “plucked me out of the ED with orders to launch a new 26-bed observation unit as the manager. I thought, ‘Well, OK, I'll do that.’ I kept being given these opportunities and running with them, enough of them fairly well because I kept getting more. I always said yes.”

That openness to new challenges—stretching—is something she preaches among younger nurses, and it's a message she will bring to all nurses at JHH. Be ready. Be flexible. Be open.

Also, she could add, be aware of how things work.

The CNO position at JHH appeared on her radar because of what Smyth had learned at other health systems. “Most do it differently, separating CNO and chief nurse executive roles. But it made sense for the Johns Hopkins Health System at the time.” Largely because few other systems have a Deb Baker. “I don't know how she was able to accomplish the things she has,” Smyth says of her mentor and close colleague, adding that on top of everything else, Baker understood her own limits. Eight years were enough.

“As we were talking around the Director of Nursing Table, Deb had mentioned on more than one occasion that at some point she would be separating from the CNO role. So we sort of knew it was coming.”

COVID came first.

“It threw everything off,” with Baker instead asking Smyth in spring of 2020 to serve as CNO at the



Baltimore Convention Center Field Hospital, Ground Zero of the city's inpatient, testing, and treatment operation. “That sort of exposed me to being in the CNO world.”

Then Maria Koszalka, CNO and VP of patient care services at Bayview, announced that she would retire. “Deb let me know, like she did all the other directors, that this opportunity was going to present itself.”

“We both know what a gem Bayview is, and at that moment in time it made total sense for me to apply to the position. Bayview had been on the Magnet journey for a long time and I really believed I could help them accomplish that goal. Staff engagement and culture are very important to me, so I made it a priority to listen to the staff, hear their concerns, and help advocate for needed resources. Most importantly, with COVID having taken a toll on our staff, I was determined to bring the fun back to nursing.”

Bayview is and has been an amazing hospital. But it needed work in “the Big 3 when it comes to Magnet”: staff engagement (“huge vacancies when I got there, compounded by COVID”), quality outcomes linked to nursing, and patient experience, a deficiency resulting from, among other factors, the age of buildings and use of double rooms.

“All had to be course corrected to be in a position to submit that Magnet document. I say all of that because they are improved and Bayview will submit this October,” she adds proudly.

“Bayview is so special. The way I look at it, they needed my energy and my engagement then. [Today] they are rock stars. All the tools they need to be successful, they've all been set up or put into practice. So even though it's a little bit earlier than I would have liked to leave, it's OK.”

Be Genuine, Be Visible

As for JHH, Smyth is still waiting for the day she sits at her desk and doesn't feel as though she's “in Deb Baker's Office.” But Baker's shoes are becoming more comfortable as Smyth walks the familiar floors of JHH. Meantime, there's work to do. Before Baker assumed the top role, nursing had no control over its own budget. Silos created inefficiencies. Baker worked to dissolve both issues. Then COVID mandated a save-lives-today-worry-tomorrow approach to staffing that is unsustainable post-pandemic. “JHHS hospitals should be proud. We not only kept all our beds open during COVID, we even added additional beds to meet the needs of the community,” Smyth says. “Still, the financial impact of this was significant, and now we need to make sure we are staffing our units to our actual census, not the ‘what if’ scenario.”

You don't have to know everything in order to lead, she insists. What you do need is to be genuine, be visible, and connect on a personal level with those whose work lives are in your hands, and whose continued success you depend upon. It all starts with hello, Smyth figures. “Then, once people are used to you being in the background, once you get that comfort level, then you start getting all the real information. You get to the meat of the problems.”

And the meatier the problem, the bigger the opportunity. Smyth can't wait.

This time, she won't have to. ■

— Steve St. Angelo

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A FIELD OF DAISY AWARD WINNERS

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Rachel Picou | Sept-Oct 2024
Howard County General



Liane Mai Uy | April 2025
Sibley Memorial



Miriam Lee | Oct 2024
Johns Hopkins Hospital

Johns Hopkins Hospital and its affiliates within the Johns Hopkins Health System—All Children's in Florida, Bayview Medical Center, Howard County General, Sibley Memorial, Suburban, plus Johns Hopkins Care at Home—are proud to honor its outstanding nurses with the DAISY Award—an international recognition program that celebrates the skillful, compassionate care nurses provide to patients and families every day. A sampling of winners fills these pages. More images are at nursing.jhu.edu/daisy.

The DAISY (Diseases Attacking the Immune System) Award was established in memory of J. Patrick Barnes, who died at 33 of an autoimmune disease. The Barnes family was awestruck by the clinical skills and compassion of the nurses who cared for Patrick, so it created this award to say thank-you to nurses everywhere. ■



Nina Marone | Sept 2024
Johns Hopkins Hospital



Amy O'Toole | Oct 2024
Bayview

Jessica Lovelace | Aug 2024
Johns Hopkins Care at Home

Haley Jacobowitz | Nov 2024
All Children's



Trina Braun | 2024
Suburban



Linda Sayre | Dec 2024
Howard County General

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A LETTER FROM DEBORAH BAKER:

Innovating Care Delivery with Virtual Nursing

Just as spring ushers in a sense of growth and renewal, across Johns Hopkins Nursing we are also experiencing the excitement of new beginnings.

Throughout March and April, an innovative new care delivery model launched in several units at four of our Johns Hopkins Medicine hospitals: virtual nursing, which uses secure two-way audio and video communications to enhance patient care and provide support to nurses at the bedside.

In patient rooms on units where virtual nursing is being piloted, special devices have been installed. Two infrared cameras offer up-close and wide-angle views of the room. A microphone and soundbar are integrated into the room's television. Through this equipment, the virtual nurse—an actual human being—works collaboratively with the care team to provide real-time care and communicate with the patient and care partners. Think of it as having a Zoom or Facetime call through your TV, where you can truly focus on the person in front of you.

So, what can nurses even do if they're not in the room with the patient? A whole lot, it turns out. Among other things, virtual nurses engage with patients to provide education, administer assessment questions, plan for discharge and complete documentation—duties that do not require physical examinations or tests. This gives bedside nurses more time to do what they do best—hands-on clinical care and leading their teams.

The virtual nurses are based in a centralized workspace, known as the HIVE (Hospital Inpatient Virtual Environment), within the hospital. The HIVE is set up so virtual nurses can clearly

and privately communicate with patients and care teams while accessing electronic medical records, policies, quality dashboards, and more.

The virtual nurses themselves are our own, experienced Johns Hopkins RNs who have received special training. They are trusted, consistent members of the care team, many of whom split their time between the HIVE and the bedside. When in the HIVE, the virtual nurses work closely with staff members on the unit to support care and provide an additional set of eyes and ears on patients.

Research shows that the benefits of virtual nursing are many. It is shown to improve patient experience, satisfaction, quality outcomes, and throughput, while reducing length of stay and readmissions. For nurses, major benefits include a decrease in documentation duties with an increase in retention and engagement. Virtual nursing can also be a career path beyond the bedside for those who have retired or left direct patient care. Experienced virtual nurses can also serve as mentors and valued colleagues for nurses entering the workforce. Spending less time on documentation frees bedside nurses up to provide more hands-on care and to practice at the top of their licenses. A win-win for all involved.

We are so excited that virtual nursing is finally here and are grateful to our teams and generous donors who have helped us bring this to fruition. The vision of virtual health at Johns Hopkins includes representation from all of our team members and researchers, including faculty from the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing. If you would like to learn more, please visit hopkinsmedicine.org/patient-care/virtual-nursing. ■

Deborah Baker, DNP, AG-ACNP, NEA-BC, FAAN, is senior vice president for nursing for the Johns Hopkins Health System.



*Alumni Update; Class News,
Church Notes; Alumni
Weekend, and more.*

It takes a village, so Emma Jagasia (front and center) brought one along to celebrate her successful PhD defense. Congratulations, Dr. Jagasia.

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VIGILANDO

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NEWS FROM **JOHNS HOPKINS**
NURSES' ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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ALUMNI UPDATE

MY FELLOW ALUMNI,

Serving as president of the Johns Hopkins Nurses' Alumni Association has been one of the great honors of my professional life. Having the opportunity to represent a community of nurses rooted in compassion, critical inquiry, and humanism fills me with pride and gratitude.

As our Nursing Pledge states, we respect wellness as a human right, and promote this with individuals, their families, and communities. This means that we practice with respect for the worth of every person, even when our worldviews and life experiences do not align with theirs. And we hold fast to our shared responsibility to promote the health of other fellow human beings—especially those whose burden of injustice is much too high. Embodying these nursing genotypes through research, clinical practice, advocacy, and policy leadership, Hopkins nurses are leading efforts to transform systems that perpetuate suffering into those that sustain equity and healing.

Sustaining this culture of competent compassion also means we have to build community and support one another—celebrating and cherishing the brave and foundational work carried out by our forebearers and mentoring those who come after us so that they can grow and carry on with this noble and important way of life. This past year, our Alumni Association has strengthened connections across generations and geographies. We have convened virtually and in-person, reimagining what it means to be part of a network that transcends our Baltimore campus. We have broken bread together, welcomed hundreds of new graduates and students, and shown up for our students with concrete financial support—because we remember what it meant when someone did the same for us.



Outgoing JHNAA President Fernando Mena-Carrasco, center, with award winners Chelsea Samms and Natalia Barolin, both from the Class of 2015.

But our duty as nurses extends far beyond professional connection—it calls for moral courage and discernment. Every person deserves to feel safe, valued, and cared for—whether in a hospital, a classroom, a place of worship, or any space they enter. Nurses have a responsibility to protect the well-being of individuals and communities, offering comfort in times of fear and standing with those who are vulnerable. When access to essential health care services is at risk, nurses speak up for the care people need to live healthy, meaningful lives. When individuals, including members of the transgender community, face barriers to care or acceptance, nurses affirm their dignity and work to ensure everyone receives respectful, compassionate care. And when members of our communities face the threat of being separated from their families, schools, or workplaces through arrest or deportation, nurses uphold the values of safety, belonging, and humanity—creating spaces where people can heal, learn, and live without fear.

So, wherever you are licensed to practice—at the bedside, in boardrooms, in research labs, classrooms, the halls of Congress, domestically or abroad—I call on you to embody what it means to be a Hopkins Nurse. Practice with compassion and respect the inherent dignity and worth of every person. Use your powerful voice to respond proportionately to the needs of the most marginalized. Carry forward our profession's values with clarity and conviction, always centering the people we serve.

Thank you for the privilege of walking alongside you in this moment. May we continue to meet it with courage, imagination, and an unrelenting commitment to those we serve.

Fernando Mena-Carrasco, MSN, MSW, RN
President, Johns Hopkins Nurses' Alumni Association
2023-2025

CLASS NEWS

Kate Guzmán, '06 was named Oakland County Health Officer. She will oversee nearly 350 employees in the Oakland County Health Division, advancing the county's strategic goal to protect and improve resident's health.

Laura Wood, '12 was inducted into the West Virginia University Academy of Distinguished Alumni.

Congratulations to JHSON alumni inducted as 2024 fellows in the American Academy of Nursing:

- **Rebecca R.S. Clark, '18**
- **Clara M. Gona, '96**
- **Kelli Garber, '90**
- **Melissa D. Hladek, '18**
- **Kathleen A. Schachman, '18**
- **Laurie A. Saletnik, '07, '09**

2025 Dean's Alumni Awards

Chelsea Samms, '15 is the 2025 recipient of the Outstanding Nurse Educator Award for her dedication, innovation, and leadership in nursing education. At Northwell Health, she leads high-acuity clinical trainings and supports new nurses while continuing NICU practice and professional development. As founder of I Know Newborns, LLC, she advances community education to reduce Black infant mortality and inspire the next generation of nurses.

Roberto Roman Laporte, '18 earned the Outstanding Nurse Researcher Award. Roberto is a nurse leader, educator, and researcher whose work has advanced evidence-based practice, nursing education, and health equity. A Johns Hopkins Executive DNP graduate and former Jonas Scholar, he served as a nurse scientist mentoring health care professionals and contributing to his hospital's Magnet designation, while also holding editorial roles in nursing research publications. He is now the co-founder and chief innovation officer of VitalBridge Health, a primary care practice in Palm Beach developed to provide innovative treatment at an affordable

rate for marginalized, uninsured, and underserved communities of South Florida.

Natalia Barolín, '15 received the Outstanding Policy Influencer Award, recognized for her leadership in health policy and advocacy at local, regional, and national levels. With a background in public health, oncology nursing, and strategic communications, she translates nursing expertise into impactful policy solutions. As senior health policy advisor at the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing, she leads initiatives that advance health system reform, equity, and community-based care, including the innovative Neighborhood Nursing model. She also mentors future nurse policy leaders and continues to shape Maryland's health care landscape through advocacy and strategic reform.

The Cynthia and Peter Rosenwald Awards

Shequilla Edwards earned the Cynthia and Peter Rosenwald ICU Nurse of the Year Award. After completing her postgraduate nursing degree in 2020, she worked in emergency and hospice care in Los Angeles before joining the cardiac ICU at Johns Hopkins Bayview in February 2024. Known for her compassion, teamwork, and dedication, Shequilla quickly became a valued member of the CICU night shift team. Her exceptional patient care earned her the Daisy Award in 2024.

Julie Peter is the 2025 recipient of the Cynthia and Peter Rosenwald Nursing Innovator of the Year Award. Julie led the development of education and training for the Johns Hopkins Health System's virtual nursing program, collaborating across teams to align technology, workflows, and curriculum. Julie ensured flexible training options, created a hands-on practice repository, and addressed site-specific needs to support successful implementation. Her work is driving a system-wide transformation in nursing care, enhancing satisfaction, quality, and efficiency.

JOHNS HOPKINS IN MEMORIAM

Annette Lindamood, '58
Gertrude Hodges, '59
Kathleen Bramlette, '63
Susan Boyd Netherland, '68
Charlotte Trout, '69



ALUMNI WEEKEND RECAP

In April, the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing and Johns Hopkins Nurses' Alumni Association (JHNAA) welcomed back alumni for Alumni Weekend. It all kicked off with a networking social in the city, where nursing alumni and students reconnected with old friends and welcomed new members into the Hopkins community. On the Homewood campus, nursing faculty members **Janiece Taylor** and **Nicole Warren** delivered inspiring presentations as part of the weekend's celebrations.

On Saturday, the weekend culminated with the annual Alumni Brunch. This year, Dean **Sarah Szanton**, the JHNAA, **Deb Kennedy**, and

Deb Baker recognized award recipients. Attendees also enjoyed fellowship and celebrated special reunion milestones, including the Church Home & Hospital Class of 1975's 50th anniversary.

This year's celebrations aligned with the Hopkins Alumni Weekend. This provided opportunities for alumni and students to connect and to share with the broader Hopkins community while still honoring the treasured traditions of the School of Nursing.

The school and JHNAA are grateful to everyone who took part in Alumni Weekend and look forward to seeing you next year! ■

Help Build a Tribute to Hampton House

Hampton House, home to Johns Hopkins Nursing students for almost 50 years (1926-73), is being demolished to make way for a new Johns Hopkins Life Sciences building.

Powerful memories will live on of the halls, floors, and people of Hampton House, where so many nursing students lived through hot summers, cold winters, national cultural upheavals, and a world war, in addition to navigating the formative years of young adulthood and becoming a Hopkins Nurse.

Appreciating the significance of Hampton House for so many alumni, the cornerstone and several bricks have been gathered for a tribute. Please share your own memories, which may become part of that tribute.

Please send them to:

Jane Williams Ball, jball8015@aol.com

Maureen Moore Dodd, maureen21401@gmail.com

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CHURCH NOTES

DEB CORTEGGIANO KENNEDY, '73



CHURCH NOTES IN MEMORIAM

Rosemary Ellis Scholtz, '55
Michael Fowler Thompson, '60
Bernice Johnston Culver, '61



Reunion Weekend

The Class of 1975 broke a record by having 18 classmates gather for all the festivities of Reunion Weekend. Many traveled from all over the country including Florida, South Carolina, and Kentucky. This class has celebrated milestone reunions every five years since graduating in 1975 and this milestone did not disappoint. Congratulations to our newest group of “Golden Girls.” Special thanks to **Teri Lura Fink Bennett** for all her hard work to organize all of the planning for such a successful gathering.

Class Gift to Freda Creutzburg Scholarship

The Class of 1975, many of whom attended Church Home & Hospital School of Nursing on a scholarship, were very generous in their contributions to the Class Gift of \$2,000, presented to Dean Sarah Szanton at the Reunion Brunch.

Distinguished Alumni Award

It was very special to present the Church Home & Hospital Distinguished Alumni Award to **Cynthia Norman Carbo, '75**. Cindy has had a very distinguished career and was the overwhelming nominee for this award. Congratulations, Cindy! ■

Deborah Corteggiano Kennedy, '73, is Church Home and Hospital alumni president.



Scan the QR code to share your alumni news with us and have the chance to be featured in an upcoming e-newsletter.

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Former Chief of the Center for HIV/
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THE BACK PAGE

OPEN AND SHUT: When Daniel Martinez joined the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing in 2021, he was essentially creating the job of staff photographer/videographer. He said hello and hasn't stopped hustling since, creating eye-catching, heart-tugging, prize-winning videos on top of professional shots of each new class, candid images from just about every event on campus, and—for this issue—the beautiful images that accompany profiles of MSN (Entry into Nursing) students. The DNP profiles too! And the Around the SON roundup! And ... you get the picture. Martinez's work is a delight, and this magazine will continue to feature it regularly, if not quite this exclusively, as he continues to grow and find new outlets for his artistic talent.

Images on the facing page and below are from Daniel Martinez's personal archives. More photos from his collection are at nursing.jhu.edu/dmartinez.

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CONTRIBUTOR: DANIEL MARTINEZ

Daniel Martinez, photographer/videographer for the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing, is originally from Bogota, Colombia, but has already lived in Maryland more than half his life. He earned his BFA in graphic design from the Savannah College of Art and Design, and his MFA in new media photojournalism from the Corcoran School of Art and Design at George Washington University. In his free time, Daniel enjoys the outdoors, going to the movies and looking for the best ceviche and tacos spot.



“HAVING A NICE PICTURE AFTER A SHOOT IS GREAT, BUT LIKE THE SAYING SAYS, FOCUS ON THE PATH, NOT THE DESTINATION. WHAT’S REALLY IMPORTANT TO ME, WHAT I REALLY ENJOY, IS THE WHOLE PROCESS BEFORE THE CLICK.”



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