



Fall 2025

Nursing Connections

A Message from Associate Dean, Kimberly Sharp

Happy Autumn, and welcome back to our EU school of nursing alums planning to join the 100th year university celebrations at homecoming. We hope that you will come to visit the campus to see what has been happening with new campus upgrades and sports facility access. After the unrelenting heat of summer, we are enjoying cooler temps and fall colors.

We are excited to welcome our new faculty members:

Full-time faculty – Karen Ivie and David Sharp

Clinical faculty adjuncts (BSN) – Owen Grigg, Stacey Simmerman, Kelsey Jug

School Nurse faculty adjunct – Stella Bredin

MSN Faculty adjunct – Joyce Foresman-Capuzzi

Important Events:

The CCNE accreditation team is coming to campus to review the MSN Nurse Educator program. Please pray for this important process. Graduates and preceptors are invited to be a part of the site visit review activities.

Faculty News:

Dr. Molly Scarlato has been accepted into the 3rd cohort of a highly competitive simulation intensive program for early-career simulationists of those seeking to become leaders in the field. This year-long “ASCEND” mentorship program is rigorous initiative through the Society for Simulation in Healthcare

Yours in His service,

Kimberly Sharp

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

CONGRATULATIONS DR. MARIA MARZIANO!



At West Chester University on April 9th, Eastern University's own Maria Marziano became Dr. Maria Marziano, Assistant Professor in a brilliantly presented defense.

Her DNP focused on Screening for Relative Energy Deficiency in Sport (REDs) and the Female Athlete Triad in Female Undergraduate Collegiate Athletes: A Quality Improvement Project.

Maria joins her esteemed colleagues, Dr. Nancy Blackburn and Dr. Molly Scarlato who joined the doctoral ranks this past year! We are very proud of all of your hard work!



CHS RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM



CHS RESEARCH POSTER SYMPOSIUM

FRIDAY, APRIL 11
10:00-3:00
PRESENTATIONS 12:30-1:30
McINNIS LOBBY



The Nursing Research students completed their research projects on topics relevant to improving patient outcomes. The semester-long project involved narrowing the topic of research, writing a research question, performing a review and critique of the nursing literature on the topic of interest, and concluding how the research evidence may be utilized in improving outcomes for patients, nurses, or the community. Students worked in teams of 2-3 to complete the project, culminating in a written paper and research poster.



PINNING CEREMONY CLASS OF 2025



*"...AND WHO KNOWS IF YOU
HAVE NOT COME TO THE
KINGDOM FOR SUCH A TIME
AS THIS?"
ESTHER 4:14*



This was the class verse chosen by the graduating class of 2025. Their Pinning Ceremony was held on May 9th with great joy and celebration for all of their hard work. Our prayer for them is they will enter the nursing profession not only as skilled professionals, but as lights for Christ.



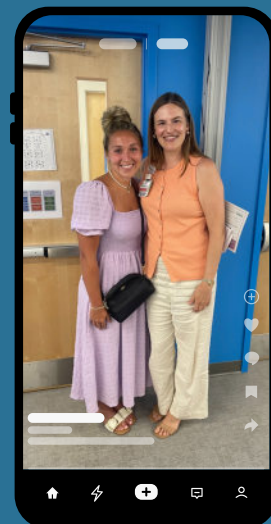
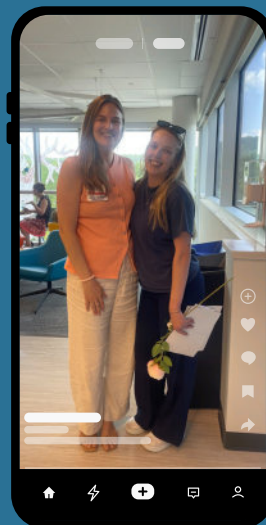
CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR SON GRADUATES!

In addition to her extensive role in Eastern's School of Nursing, Dr. Molly Scarlato is a Professional Development Specialist at LVHN (Lehigh Valley Health Network) where she assists in empowering nurses through continual learning and professional growth through the Nurse Residency Program.

It was her great pleasure to attend the most recent graduation where two of our former School of Nursing students were being recognized as having completed their first year of nursing practice!

Warmest congratulations to Madison Keckler ('23) and Kellie Reith ('24).

MADISON KECKLER



KELLIE REITH

MCLEAN SCHOLARSHIP WINNER - ELLA HORST!

Ella Horst (class of 2026) has received the McLean Scholarship for Nursing Majors. This scholarship is provided through the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania (AICUP). The McLean Contributionship established a generous endowment in 1998 to help full-time undergraduate students who are enrolled in a Nursing or Physician's Assistant program. Applicants were required to have a GPA of 3.0 or greater as well as exhibit campus leadership and be a community volunteer.

"This gift from the McLean Contributionship is monumental in helping me to finish my nursing education. I feel so grateful to have been selected as a recipient, and I want to give a huge thank you to all the people who made this possible," says Horst.



NEW ASSESSMENT ROOM!

The Nursing department is proud to cut the ribbon on our new Health Assessment rooms located in McInnis room 307! "This room, says Kim McManiman, Simulation Liason & Technical Support, provides students with a secure space to practice health assessment skills that they have learned in Health Assessment Lab. The room is fashioned after a provider's office and has two beds, a wall divider, mayo stand for equipment, and a wall mounted blood pressure cuff. The equipment and layout provide a realistic atmosphere for the students. It is a space that will be easily accessible and utilized at their convenience throughout the day! Please stop by and visit!



MSN CELEBRATES GRAD!

On Saturday, May 10th, Drs. Pam Santarlaschi and Gerri Remy had the great pleasure of attending the graduation of new MSN graduate Tahira Whittington.

'We couldn't be more proud of Tahira,' says Dr. Santarlaschi. Whittington's graduation from the master's program is just the beginning of a promising expansion in Eastern's School of Nursing.



DAVID SHARP ON THE MOVE!



DAVID IN CHICAGO!



DAVID IN KENTUCKY!

Dr. David Sharp, Professor, Mental Health, returned to Chicago as an invited panelist to assist as an NGN item-writer for the NCSBN. David also collaborated on an updated position paper for the APNA on Violence Prevention (Aug '25). He is a member of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association scholarly review committee; the Qeios open Science Journal; External Research Reviewer (PhD students) Stoney Brook University School of Nursing, NY; & is an APNA invited member of the Restoring Workplace Safety Task Force Steering Committee

CCNE ACCREDITATION

The Eastern University School of Nursing is hosting an on-site accreditation review of the master's degree program in nursing with the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) on October 27 to 29, 2025. The CCNE accreditation process invites program constituents and other interested parties to submit written comments concerning a program's qualifications for accreditation. Written third-party comments will be received by CCNE at thirdpartycomments@ccne.accreditation.org up until October 6th, 2025. Thank you for your prayers and participation in this important process.

NURSE'S CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Nurses' Christian Fellowship (NCF) hosted a table at the Welcome Back Bash on Saturday, August 23rd. NCF is open to student nurses (and faculty!) who desire to know and follow Jesus as nurses, and offers Bible studies, fellowship, ministry opportunities, support, and resources. Meetings will be held on the third Mon. of each month from 3:00-4:30 pm in McInnis (room to be determined) beginning on 9/15. Come join us!



EASTERN UNIVERSITY GRAD NAMED SCHOOL NURSE OF THE YEAR!



Emily Hunter, M.Ed '21, BSN, RN, CSN '19, the dedicated school nurse at Rhawnhurst Elementary School in Philadelphia, has been named the 2025 National School Nurse of the Year for Pennsylvania by the National Association of School Nurses (NASN) and the Pennsylvania Association of School Nurses and Practitioners (PASNAP). This prestigious honor recognizes her outstanding contributions to student health, educational equity, and professional leadership in school nursing.

Emily was chosen from the 2024 regional winners of the School Nurse Excellence Award, having previously been recognized as the top school nurse in the Philadelphia region.

"It's an incredible privilege to represent Philadelphia on the national stage," says Emily. "Our students are resilient, vibrant, and full of potential. Supporting their health and well-being is the

most meaningful work I could ever imagine. I love supporting my fellow school nurses in their journeys, and I hope my passion inspires others to love school nursing as much as I do."

For the past seven years, Emily has served the School District of Philadelphia as a full-time certified school nurse. By helping students face complex health and social challenges, she has become a trusted anchor for families, responding to emergencies, managing chronic conditions, promoting wellness, and delivering culturally responsive care to an increasingly diverse student body.

Equipped with a Master of Education in School Health Services from Eastern University and a clinical background in emergency trauma, labor & delivery, and pediatrics, Nurse Hunter brings a rare blend of medical expertise and educational insight. She creates engaging, age-appropriate health education materials on topics such as asthma, eczema, allergies, and diabetes, helping students take ownership of their health in meaningful, empowering ways.

To those who know her, this recognition comes as no surprise. At Rhawnhurst Elementary, Nurse Hunter is more than a healthcare provider, she's a vital part of the school community. Whether she's greeting students with high-fives at the door, caring for a diabetic child, or conducting screenings in the gym, she does it with compassion, energy, and a smile.

"She never gets cranky with the kids," says Mrs. Hossain, a special education assistant at Rhawnhurst. "No matter how hectic the day gets, Nurse Hunter brings the same calm, caring energy every time. The kids know they can count on her, and so do we."

Emily's recent recognition as National School Nurse of the Year reflects both the science and soul of her approach: she not only manages medical needs, but also builds trust, champions equity, and ensures every student feels seen, safe, and supported.

Beyond her daily role, Emily is also a CPR instructor, mentor, author, and content creator for school health professionals. She is deeply involved in advocacy work for underserved communities and is passionate about bridging barriers to care, especially for Philadelphia's growing immigrant population.

Looking ahead, her goals include becoming certified to provide continuing education credits for health professionals, pursuing a second master's degree in nursing to teach future nurses, and potentially even earning a PhD in public health.

For Emily, this award is both a celebration and a call to action.

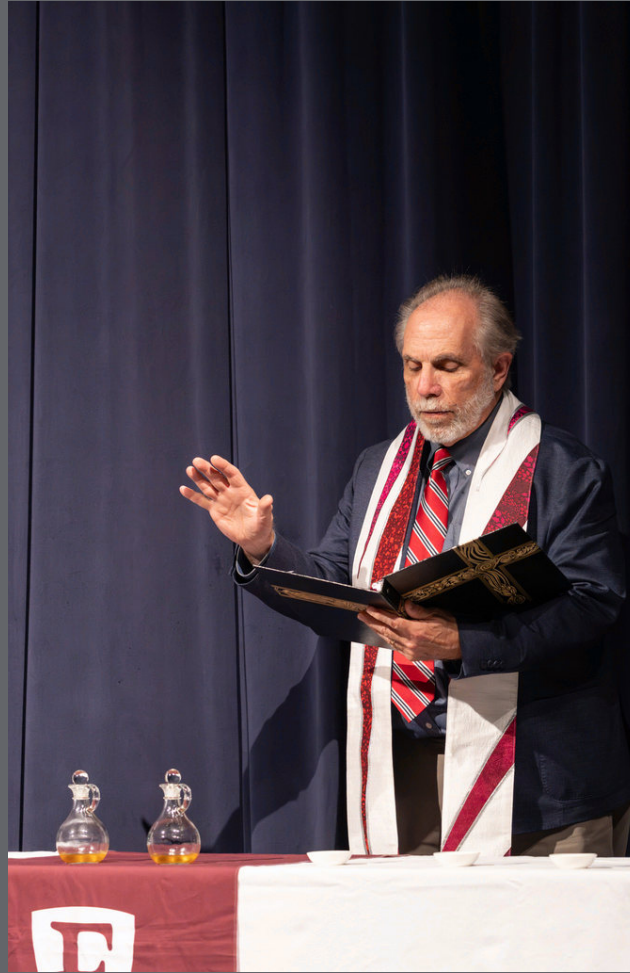
"This honor reflects the hard work school nurses do every day behind the scenes," she says. "It reminds me how important it is to keep advocating, educating, and showing up for the kids who need us most. I am deeply grateful to my school community—staff, students, families, and especially my administrators and district coordinators—for their unwavering support and trust in me."

BLESSING OF THE HANDS

The entire Nursing community came together to celebrate the Blessing of the Hands on September 22nd.

This time honored ceremony serves to recognize the compassion, dedication, and healing touch of nurses, by symbolically blessing their hands, which are used to deliver care, touch patients, and often participate in the sacred moments in a person's life from birth to death.

Keynote speaker, Professor Sally Stern, reminded the assembled community of the story of Jesus from Luke 8:43-48, and the power of touch. Our Nursing team prayed for the Lord's blessing and protection for each one during the upcoming year.



A WORD FROM OUR ALUMNI

"The Eastern University nursing program is greatly appreciated because they made me the nurse I am today. I am thankful for the professors who took their time to ensure my success."

- Destiny Iyare '22

NURSING CELEBRATES CINCO DE MAYO!



In celebration of Cinco De Mayo, the Nursing department gathered with all things Mexican including a wonderful array of shared foods, drinks, colorful decorations. The Mariachi band was not able to attend, unfortunately, but we were thrilled to take whacks at a piñata complete with surprises inside!



NEWS FLASH!

A generous grant from the McLean Foundation makes possible the "Anatomage" clinical learning table for the EU St Davids Campus!

The Anatomage Table presents a highly sustainable interactive learning solution. For the first time, nursing and science students can gather around a life-sized, 3D model and explore the human body together. They can rotate, zoom in, and virtually dissect structures in real time. It is like gaining a window into the inner workings of our bodies and seeing God's creative hand in action. Nursing students can explore complications in a safe environment where they can learn without the pressure of real-life consequences.

Program planning will also identify ways for this resource to infuse our graduate nursing courses.

