

## PhD Nursing Student

# NEWSLETTER



This Fall 2025 Newsletter highlights and recognizes the accomplishments of current students and recent graduates from the PhD in Nursing Program in the Tan Chingfen Graduate School of Nursing at the UMass Chan Medical School. I'm fortunate to serve as the Director of this Program and witness the extraordinary efforts of our students and faculty as they explore their interests, engage in teaching and learning, design and conduct research, and commit to steward the discipline of nursing. Nancy Morris, PhD, RN, ANP-BC



## 2025 Graduates!

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### **Lauri Toohey**

March 2025 Graduate

*Dissertation:* "My life, my choice, my happiness, my voice" A Qualitative Study of Home Dwelling Adults 85 Years and Older

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### **Heather Kennedy**

June 2025 Graduate

*Dissertation:* Exploring perceived social support in family caregivers of children with medical complexity

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### **Ian Lane**

June 2025 Graduate

*Dissertation:* Measuring burnout in pediatric critical care nursing: Development and pilot validation of a PICU RN Burnout Scale

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### **Kelly Sudnick**

June 2025 Graduate

*Dissertation:* Night sky darkness immersion: An exploratory study with veterans

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# 2025 Graduates!

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## **Sarah Romain**

June 2025 Graduate

*Dissertation:* Travel nurses' experience with ethical challenges in practice: A qualitative study

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## **Sandra Toffay**

June 2025 Graduate

*Dissertation:* Self-care among Black African Immigrants with hypertension

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## **Amelia Toye Brousseau**

August 2025 Graduate

*Dissertation:* A National Evaluation of Risk Factors for Colorectal Cancer using NHANES Data (2013-2023)

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# Expanding Horizons

Benoit, C., Ibrahim, N., Miezah, D., **Terhune, E.H.**, & Fawcett, J. (2025). Thoughts About the Economics of Health Policies. *Nursing Science Quarterly*.38(4):464-466. [Http://doi:10.1177/08943184251358356](http://doi:10.1177/08943184251358356)

**Bingham-Hendricks, C., Peters-Mosquera, A,** Aronowitz, S., Woods, C. & Aronowitz, T. (2024). Changes in Opioid Use Disorder Treatment During Covid-19 and their Impact on American Indian/Alaska Native Communities. Presented at the November 2024 AMERSA National Conference, Chicago, IL.

**Bingham-Hendricks, C.** (2025). Exploring the intersectionality of historical trauma and substance misuse among American Indian/Alaska Natives. Oral presentation as part of a symposium at the 37th Annual Scientific Session of the Eastern Nursing Research Society, Philadelphia, PA. April 3, 2025.

**Bourgeois, J.** (2025). Acute dystonic reaction. *American Nurse Journal*. 2025; 20(1). <https://www.myamericannurse.com/acute-dystonic-reaction/>

**Dubois, M.A., Bingham-Hendricks, C., Peters-Mosquera, A,** Woods, C. & Aronowitz, T. (2024). Review of American Indian/Native Alaska Maternal Home Visiting Interventions. Presented at the Transcultural Nursing Society November 2024 Annual Conference.



**Dubois, M. A.** (2025). Witnessing obstetrical violence: Relationship to moral injury and intent to leave Labor and Delivery nursing practice. Poster at the 37th Annual Scientific Session of the Eastern Nursing Research Society, Philadelphia, PA. April 3, 2025.

**Dubois, M. A.** & Gazarian, P. (TBD). Policy Analysis of the 2020-2021 Report on Maternal Mortality in Massachusetts Using the Conceptual Model of Nursing and Health Policy. *Politics & Nursing Practice* (Accepted, publication pending).

**Kennedy, H. M.,** DiFazio, R. L., Crawford, S., & Pagano-Therrien, J. (2025). Exploring Perceived Social Support in Family Caregivers of Children with Medical Complexity, *Journal of Pediatric Health Care*, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pedhc.2025.09.007>.

**Peters-Mosquera, A.** (2025). Preliminary outcomes from a Native Middle-School intervention to prevent substance initiation. Oral presentation as part of a symposium at the 37th Annual Scientific Session of the ENRS, Philadelphia, PA. April 3, 2025.



**Peters-Mosquera, A.** (2025). How the changes in the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) have affected American Indian/Alaska Native women, presented at the 51st Annual conference of the Transcultural Nursing Society, Portland, Maine, October 30, 2025.

Penner, S. B., Mercado, N. R., Bernstein, S., Erickson, E., **DuBois, M. A.**, & Dreisbach. (2025). Fostering informed consent and shared decision-making in maternity nursing with the advancement of artificial intelligence. *MCN Am J Matern Child Nurs*, 50(2), 78-85. <https://doi.org/10.1097/NMC.0000000000001083>



**Quill, C.,** Rosetti, V., Crawford, S., & Gazarian, P. (2025). Open Science Dissemination in Nursing. Poster at the International Academy of Nursing Editors 3rd Annual Meeting in Portland, Maine August 5, 2025.

**Romain, S.** (TBD). Travel Nurses' Experience with Ethical Challenges: A Qualitative Study. Nursing Ethics, (Accepted, publication pending).

**Terhune, E. (2025).** News post on the Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association Website, AANP National Nurse Practitioner Health Policy Conference, June 12, 2025.

**Terhune, E. H., Toye, A., Ito, K., & Morris, N. S.** (2025). Embedding health literacy best practices: A quasi-experimental feasibility study using the Clear Communication of Laboratory Results template. Oral presentation at the 37th Annual Scientific Session of the ENRS, Philadelphia, PA. April 4, 2025.



Theriault, C., Lassalle-Klein, R., **Lane, I. A.**, Zempsky, W. T., & Santos, M. (2025). Experiences of Chronic Pain in Transgender and Gender Diverse Youth: A Mixed Methods Investigation. Health Psychology. ePub Ahead of Print.

Woods, C., **Bingham-Hendricks, C., Peters-Mosquera, A.**, Aronowitz, S., & Aronowitz, T. April 2025. Historical Trauma and Substance Use Disorders Among Native Americans. Presented to the ENRS 2025 Annual Convention, Philadelphia, PA. April 3, 2025.

Woods, C., **Bingham-Hendricks, C., Peters-Mosquera, A.**, Aronowitz, S., & Aronowitz, T. April 2025. The Intersectionality of Historical Trauma and Substance Misuse among American Indian/Alaska Natives. Presented at the Together for Hope 2025: Shaping the Future of Addiction Care, sponsored by the Grayken Center for Addiction Boston Medical Center, Worcester, MA.

**York, E. (2025).** Enhancing patient safety and nursing communication: A quality improvement project on bedside shift report in acute care. Poster at the 37th Annual Scientific Session of the Eastern Nursing Research Society, Philadelphia, PA. April 3, 2025.



**Angela Latter** – Anni Vigeant Scholarship Award in recognition of overall excellence in nursing and care for the Worcester Community.

**Bill O'Neil** – Ciborowski Family Scholarship Award in recognition of a student committed to nursing, a staunch advocate for patients and families, and one who has the ability and drive to promote and build up the community.

**Beth Terhune** - 2025 GAPNA Health Affairs Scholarship Award. Beth will also be on the Gerontological Advanced Practice Nursing Association Health Affairs Committee for a two-year term and help plan related activities for their annual conference, publish in their journal, and help out with student-oriented outreach.

**Caitlin Healy** – 2025 Lillian R. Goodman Award in honor of an outstanding doctoral student who exemplifies a humanitarian approach to leadership, scholarship, and deep commitment to the development of professional practice, education, and research.

**Chyla Bingham-Hendricks** – Carol Bova Scholarship in recognition for having an unwavering commitment to patient care, nursing leadership and the desire to steward the discipline of nursing.

**Chyla Bingham-Hendricks** – member of the 2024-2025 Investigators cohort within the Justice Community Overdose Innovation Network's Learning Experience to Advance Practice (LEAP). This is a year-long mentorship and learning program.

**Jamie Bourgeois** – recognized as the AACN 2025-2026 Graduate Nursing Student Academy Advocacy Leader at UMass Chan Medical School representing the state of New Hampshire.



**Lauri Toohey** – recipient of the 2025 Dean's Award in recognition of an outstanding dissertation study.

**Lauri Toohey** – recipient of the Tan Chingfen Graduate School of Nursing 2025 Preceptor Award

**Sarah Romain** – recipient of a 2025 Sigma Theta Tau Iota –Phi-at-large Chapter Research Grant Award.



## **PhD Nursing Students Making a Difference**

**Ian Lane** a June 2025 graduate, accepted the position of Director of Center for Nursing Education & Research at Providence College in Providence, RI.

**Jamie Bourgeois** and **Melissa Anne DuBois** started a podcast called Nursing the Nation, where they dissect U.S. current events, politics, and policy through the lens of their nursing expertise for a general audience. It can be found on any podcast platform, as well as on Substack at <https://nursingthenation.substack.com/>



**Amelia Brosseau** an August 2025 graduate, accepted a position as assistant professor in the Nursing Program at Fitchburg State University in Fitchburg, MA.



**Melissa Anne DuBois** served as a "live reporter" for the International Academy of Nurse Editors Annual Conference in Portland, ME August 2025. You can find all her live reports at: <https://writers-camp.org/live-from-inane-2025/>

**Bill O'Neil** celebrates 5 years as a member of the Elder Services of Worcester Area Board of Directors.

**Bill O'Neil** is a 2 year member of the Elder Service of Worcester Area Services subcommittee.

**Sarah Romain** a June 2025 graduate, accepted a position as assistant professor at Elms College School of Nursing in Chicopee, MA.



**Cultivating strong relationships with your PhD student peers is crucial for your success and well-being in this program. While you might be tempted to prioritize "efficiency" by working through lunch alone, eating lunch in the cafe with your cohort offers an invaluable, unstructured space to process complex concepts, refine your research ideas, and gain perspectives that structured class time can't provide. To build this vital network, you need to be intentional. Prioritize attending the monthly Zoom PhD peer mentoring meetings. Consider creating an informal digital channel with your cohort (a text chain, Slack, or GroupMe) for quickly sharing important articles, opportunities, and even lighthearted memes for commiseration. Whenever possible, choose to meet in person (even if a virtual option is available). Attend as many PhD defenses as you can. These peers will become your most valuable support system, offering both essential practical help and the psychological resilience needed throughout your doctoral journey. Make the time to intentionally nurture these connections.**

## Alumni Highlights

### **Dr. Michele Griswold**

Associate Professor  
Department of Public Health  
College of Health and Human Services  
Southern Connecticut State University  
New Haven, CT  
[griswoldm1@southernct.edu](mailto:griswoldm1@southernct.edu)



Michele Griswold, PhD, MPH, RN, IBCLC, a 2017 graduate of our program, teaches maternal child health, health policy, public health leadership and lactation counseling. She serves as a research advisor to doctoral nursing students and is involved in designing interprofessional simulations for students.

Her research focuses breastfeeding and lactation. She has conducted several studies that investigate the breastfeeding experiences of women living with HIV through the lens of person-centered care with Dr. Jes Pagano-Therrien and Dr. Rita Amoah of the Tan Chingfen Graduate School of Nursing. She is also interested in social factors that create unjust barriers to breastfeeding for historically marginalized populations; she has examined the influence of racism on breastfeeding outcomes among women enrolled in the Black Women's Health Study and she has studied neighborhood socioeconomic status and its association with breastfeeding outcomes.

When asked about a primary “take aways” from her doctoral program Dr. Griswold responded, “The primary take away was the confidence I gained through strong but caring mentorship. I think nurses can be compassionate in our clinical roles but also in our roles as educators. I aim to empower students to better understand the complex relationship between health and social justice across the lifespan. My teaching philosophy is supported by the connection between 'knowing and doing' whereby students bridge concepts learned in the classroom with community engagement as global citizens. I'm sure this comes directly from the UMass GSN philosophy and my doctoral advisor, Dr. Donna Perry!”

A challenges after graduating was “the steep learning curve that comes with teaching in higher education. We spend a lot of time on research in the PhD program, teaching was brand new for me.” Dr. Griswold offers the following, “Trust yourself and just keep going!” and for life after earning a PhD she suggests, “There is no set trajectory, there is only the trajectory that is right for the individual. Talk to people in the field about their experiences whenever possible and keep an open mind about possibilities.”

Thanks to Melissa Anne DuBois for reaching out and contacting Dr. Griswold.



**Tan Chingfen Graduate School of Nursing**

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