

SPRING 2020

DNP & PHD NEWSLETTER

An official publication for Northeastern University:
School of Nursing Bouvé College of Health Sciences

Meet the Directors

Rhonda Board, PhD, RN, CCRN-K

Director of the PhD Program

Dr. Board is a tenured Associate Professor who has been faculty at the School of Nursing since 1999. She has served in a number of leadership roles, most recently as Interim Dean for the School of Nursing. Her research focus is pediatric critical care, in particular the effects of the critical care experience on children and their families. In addition to her roles in the academic setting, Dr. Board practiced as a pediatric critical care nurse in the hospital setting for 30 years. She states her work alongside families undergoing incredible stress has greatly influenced both her professional and personal life.



MaryLou Siefert, DNSc, MBA, RN, AOCN

Director of the Post Master's DNP Program

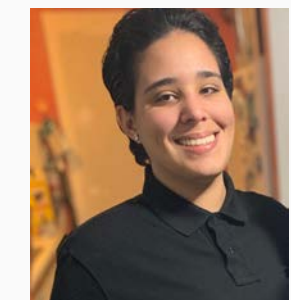
Dr. Siefert joined the School of Nursing faculty as Associate Clinical Professor in June 2019. Prior to joining Northeastern, she was faculty at Boston College and at Sacred Heart University, CT. She also worked as a nurse scientist and clinical specialist at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute. Dr. Siefert is an advanced oncology certified nurse whose professional and scholarship interests include improving oncology nursing care outcomes for patient and family quality of life, symptom management, palliative and end-of-life care. She holds degrees from Yale University, Fordham University and Emmanuel College. Dr. Siefert finds that caring for patients with cancer and their families is a privilege and rewards one with gratitude and appreciation in life.



Meet the Administrative Coordinator

Kalyn Diaz, BA

Kalyn Diaz is the administrative coordinator for both the PhD and DNP programs at Northeastern University, Bouvé of Nursing. Prior to starting at Northeastern, Kalyn worked as a financial aid coordinator for five years at California College of The Arts (CCA) in San Francisco. She has a B.A. in Writing and Literature from CCA and is currently pursuing an M.Ed. in Higher Education Administration from Northeastern University. Kalyn plans to complete the program in Spring 2021. Kalyn is originally from Boston and is very excited to be back on the East Coast and continuing to work in Higher Education.



Welcome New Huskies

There were 10 incoming DNP students in Fall of 2019. A few of the students are highlighted below.

Michele Cavallaro MSN,RN is a nurse administrator and clinical nurse manager for Atrius Health. She received her diploma in nursing from New England Baptist School of Nursing, her BSN and her MSN from Regis College, Weston, MA. Michele is pursuing her DNP in order to gain further knowledge and expertise so that she may improve outcomes for her patients and families by becoming a successful change agent in the health care industry.

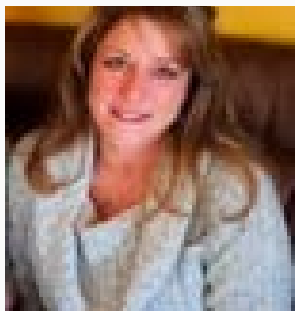
Alejandra Zambrano MSN,RN is board certified in Infection control and Hospital Epidemiology (CIC). She earned her BSN and MSN degrees from Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile where she served as an assistant professor in the School of Nursing. For her, learning a Doctor in Nursing Practice degree represents the next necessary step in her professional growth and development. The DNP will prepare her to practice at a higher level and to assume leadership roles here in the US.

Maria Bentain-Melanson MSN,RN is a Nurse Director for Cardiac Surgery Intensive Care Unit, Cardiac Surgery Intermediate Care Unit and Mechanical Circulatory Support Unit at the Brigham and Women's Hospital. Maria received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of the Philippines in Manila her Master of Science and Adult Nurse Practitioner degree from Simmons College, Boston, MA. Maria is a member of many nursing organizations such as AACN, American Nurses Association and is a current member of the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing.

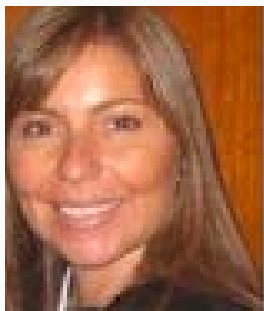
There were two incoming PhD students in Fall 2019. These students are highlighted below.

Chioma Agugoesi BSN,RN is a double Husky, having completed her undergraduate degree at Northeastern in May 2019. Since graduating, Chioma has worked part time with Spaulding Hospital on the Pulmonary Rehabilitation Team. She feels that the PhD nursing program is a place where she can grow and learn from faculty members who are in the field.

Cynthia Orofo BSN,RN is a double husky who graduated from Northeastern University and is currently working as a nurse on the Cardiothoracic ICU at Tufts Medical Center. As a critical care nurse, she aims to utilize her skills to examine ways to improve clinical patient care abroad and global healthcare delivery. She hopes to lead future global health efforts working with and learning from various populations in their respective countries. Cynthia aspires to use her doctoral education to impact policy and care standards through clinical research and education in various global healthcare systems.



**Michele Cavallaro
MSN,RN**



**Alejandra Zambrano
MSN,RN**



**Maria Bentain-
Melanson MSN,RN**



**Chioma Agugoesi,
BSN,RN**



**Cynthia
Orofo,
BSN,RN**

Response to COVID19

Sheri Boucher is a current DNP student at Northeastern University while also working as an Assistant Professor at Rhode Island College. In addition, Sheri maintains her critical care skills working per diem in a level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Sheri was required to move all of her classes online within a week, which was quite a challenge. The hospital where she is employed reached out for extra help with patient needs and Sheri jumped at the chance. She acted as a consultant to help prepare the hospital's CNAs for an influx of patients, teaching skills such as venipuncture and obtaining EKGs. Sheri looks forward to the opportunities these experiences and her DNP education will provide.



**Sheri Boucher
MSN, RN**

Cynthia Orofo, current PhD student says that she finds strength to care for critically ill COVID-19 patients in the support and encouragement from her Northeastern family and beyond. It has been a learning and growing process for health care professionals of varying experience levels. She is proud to be a nurse and Northeastern educated. She feels confident in her ability to do her part to combat the virus and its debilitating effects on communities at large, particularly impoverished communities, communities of color, and the community of men, women and children experiencing homelessness.

Congratulations to our 2020 graduates!

PhD Dissertations

Jacqueline Brady: "Experiences of School Nurses Caring for Newly Arrived Immigrant and Refugee Children"

Melissa Cyr: "A Systems Science Approach to Understand and Address Access Barriers to Rural Dermatology Care"

Elizabeth Henderson: "Toward an Understanding of Suicidal Ideation Among Career Firefighters"

Susan Maher: "New on-set Delirium among Elderly Acute Care Orthopedic Trauma Patients: Sleep Disturbance and Nutritional Status as Modifiable Risk Factors"

DNP Scholarly Projects

Bonnie Biggs: "Feasibility and Satisfaction with Monitoring of Mental Health Symptoms Using a Mobile Application: A Quality Improvement Initiative"

Mark Blazey: "Development of a Pediatric Preoperative Educational Interactive Relational Agent Using E-Delphi"

Elizabeth Bowers: "Palliative Care Education for Skilled Visiting Nurses"

Judith Connell: "Development of Peri-operative Clinical Handoff Tool Using an E-Delphi Process"

Keersin Lohnes: Primary Care Nurse Practitioner's Role in Prescribing Psychotropic Medications for Pediatric Patients"

Marianne Longo: "The Relationship Between Perceived Structural and Psychological Empowerment of Nurse Practitioners Working in a Corporate Ambulatory Care Settings"

Tammy Murray: "Parent Visitation Practices to a Rural Neonatal Intensive Care Unit: A Quality Improvement Initiative"

Sian O'Leary: "Documented Assessment of Preoperative Code Status Discussions"

Allyson Page: "The Role of Nutrition in Managing Fatigue in Primary Care"

Angie Powers: "Civilian Mental Health Providers' Knowledge in Providing Care for Active Duty Service Members"

Katie Roy: "Relationships Between the Inadequate Oxygen Delivery Index and Sepsis Outcomes in Critically Ill Children"

Catherine Turnes Bravo: "Benign Paroxysmal Positional Vertigo (BPVV) in High School and Collegiate Female Athletes with a Concussion"

Stacy Veo: "Satisfaction with Social Media Use Reflection for Young Adults with Generalized Anxiety Disorders: A Quality Improvement Project"



Pictured: Angie Powers, Stacy Veo, Keerstin Lohnes, Katie Roy, Catherine Turnes Bravo, Marianne Longo, Michele DeGrazia, Mark Blazey, Tammy Murray, Bonnie Biggs, Allyson Page, Judith Connell, Elizabeth Bowers, Sian O'leary, Paul Ethan Schueler

Publications & Presentations

Congratulations to:

Dr. Marianne Longo, "The Relationship Between Perceived Structural and Psychological Empowerment of Nurse Practitioners Working in a Corporate Operated Ambulatory Care Setting". Eastern Nursing Research Society

Dr. Mark Blazey, "Development of a Preoperative Educational Pediatric Interactive Relational Agent Using E-Delphi". Boston Children's Hospital.

Dr. Catherine Turnes-Bravo, "Benign Paroxysmal Positional Vertigo in the Female High School and Collegiate Athlete With a Concussion". Sigma International 31st International Nursing Research Congress.

Wallar, J., Pozzar, R., Xiong, N., Stopfer, J., & Underhill-Blazey, M. "Experiences of older adults with breast or gynecologic cancer undergoing multi-gene panel cancer genetic testing: secondary analysis of a mixed methods study". Oncology Nursing Society, 2020

Dr. Melissa Cyr for her publication: Cyr, M.E., Guthrie, B.J., Board, R.M., Boucher, D., & Benneyan, J.C. (2019). Piloting a tool to measure patient-perceived barriers to dermatology access. Journal of the Dermatology Nurses' Association, September 5, doi: 10.1097/JDN.0000000000000487

Honors and Awards

Congratulations to:

Cynthia Orofo, in May of 2020, she was awarded the Northeastern Community Service in Nursing Award for her volunteer work on the Health Innovations mobile health van. She continues to work on the van part time as a public health nurse and health educator.

Michele Cavallaro on her nomination in the Boston Globe's Salute to Nurses in May 2020.

Jessica Wallar and **Angie Powers** for being awarded the Jonas Scholarship. To be named a Jonas Scholar is a prestigious honor as participants work to complete rigorous research studies for their dissertation or scholarly project.

Jessica Wallar for being selected to serve as an Academic Technology Scholar for Summer 2020. The award is given each year to a PhD student through Northeastern's PhD Network.

We will like to thank PhD alum **Dr. Rachel Pozzar** who assisted our Jonas scholars. Rachel graduated from the PhD program in 2019 and was a previous Jonas scholar. She discussed her work "Bots and other bad actors: Promises and pitfalls of social media recruitment".

