Dear Alumni:

In late summer, we had the chance to greet our new and returning students, an energizing experience for us at Georgetown University School of Nursing & Health Studies. Their academic interests, enthusiasm for learning and doing, and passion to improve health and well-being for all people create such a fresh sense of vibrancy around St. Mary’s Hall and throughout our vast learning community in the United States and abroad.

I am pleased to share with you the new edition of Alumni Notes. As always, I am delighted by the personal updates and professional accomplishments we received for this issue. Many times, parents deciding upon schools for their children ask us about “outcomes.” The collected editions of this publication are one significant indicator of the ways in which you, through diverse paths, illuminate this university’s values and make life better for individuals, families, and communities around the world. That is an outcome that this dean is always happy to highlight!

As always, I am delighted by the personal updates and professional accomplishments we received for this issue.

In my letter for this issue, I wish to focus on three BSN alumnae: First, Colleen Scanlon (1976, Honorary 2000), a member of our school’s Board of Advisors and senior vice president and chief advocacy officer at Catholic Health Initiatives. Colleen, who previously earned an honorary doctorate from Georgetown and the Alumni Association’s prestigious John Carroll Award, received the Catholic Health Association’s Sister Concilia Moran Award. I am thrilled for her and congratulate her on behalf of the school.

I also write with some sad news about another John Carroll Awardee, Susan Kreutz Rogers (1963), who passed away in June. It is clear to me that Susan loved this university and this school. What she gave back to all those around her is a magnificent reflection of Georgetown’s Catholic, Jesuit identity—a model of cura personalis and a lifetime of service as a woman for others.

Finally, I offer my sincere congratulations to Patricia Grady (1966), who has retired from her role as director of the National Institute of Nursing Research. We are so very grateful (and proud) to call Pat a daughter of Georgetown. For more than two decades, she has been a wonderful steward of and visionary for nursing science in the United States.

Please stay in touch with us for future editions (nhs.georgetown.edu/alumni-notes) and be sure to read our Annual Report: 2017-2018 (https://nhs.georgetown.edu/annual-report), which you should have received in the mail.

Sincerely,

Patricia Cloonan, PhD, RN
Dean
According to ANA, “The award recognizes a nurse who has made an outstanding accomplishment in a field of practice, education, or research and demonstrates the interdependence of these elements and their significance for the improvement of nursing and health care.” Joyce is a fellow and “living legend” of the American Academy of Nursing.

Patricia Grady (BSN) served as director of the National Institute of Nursing Research from 1995 until this August. Pat has retired from this role with a strong legacy of leadership in the advancement of nursing science and countless nurse researchers.

CLASS OF 1966
Joyce Fitzpatrick (BSN, Honorary 1990) received the Jessie M. Scott Award from the American Nurses Association. According to ANA, “The award recognizes a nurse who has made an outstanding accomplishment in a field of practice, education, or research and demonstrates the interdependence of these elements and their significance for the improvement of nursing and health care.” Joyce is a fellow and “living legend” of the American Academy of Nursing.

CLASS OF 1968
Linda Begley (BSN) has been CEO for the NBN Group of companies since 1986. Providing nursing, home infusion, medical equipment, and behavioral health in Delaware and New Jersey, this company has grown and survived many changes in the health care industry. She writes, “Since two of my grandchildren are involved with crew teams in Philadelphia, I spend my leisure time watching my grandchildren row (in Vespolis) on the Schuylkill and get a big kick out of it!”

CLASS OF 1969
Johanna T. Garaventa (BSN) writes, “After 30 years of home care/hospice and hospital nursing, I have retired and relocated from New Jersey to Southport, North Carolina. I had the pleasure of raising three enjoyable children and am loving retirement.”

CLASS OF 1976
Colleen Scanlon (BSN, Honorary 2000), a member of the School of Nursing & Health Studies’ advisory board and a previous John Carroll Award recipient, received the Catholic Health Association’s prestigious Sister Concilia Moran Award for 2018. Colleen, who is Catholic Health Initiative’s senior vice president and chief advocacy officer, accepted the honor in June. The award, according to the organization, “recognizes ‘creativity and breakthrough thinking that advances the ministry.’”

CLASS OF 1983
Annette Flanagin (BSN, MA 1986), a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing, was given the Award for Meritorious Achievement by the Council of Science Editors in May 2011. Annette continues as executive managing editor and vice president of editorial operations for JAMA and the JAMA Network journals in Chicago.

CLASS OF 1987
Christine Fay Amorosi (BSN) is pursuing an AGNP-DNP degree at George Mason University. She is interested in developing care coordination models that are centered on improving patient outcomes, especially for patients living with chronic disease.

CLASS OF 1988
Rebecca F. Cady (BSN), vice president and chief risk officer at the Children’s National Medical Center (CNMC) in Washington, D.C., was named the 2018 RIMS™ Risk Manager of the Year, an award she received in April. “The Risk Manager of the Year program aims to raise the profile of the risk management profession and the outstanding programs the honorees have implemented within their organizations,” CNMC notes in a news story. Rebecca was selected from among 60 nominees across a wide range of industries.

CLASS OF 1989
Margaret S. (Peggy) Blood (BSN) was recognized during the American Society of Artificial Organs’ conference with the VAD Coordinator Leadership Award, according to the Star Beacon of Ashtabula, Ohio. The event was held in Washington, D.C. The newspaper writes, “Blood was nominated by three different individuals from three different states. The award nominees come from all over the world. Blood fit the award criteria of working decades with a life-sustaining device for heart failure (VAD), being an expert within her field and being a leader among ... nurses, physicians and surgeons.”

CLASS OF 1992
Alison Moriarty Daly (BSN) will become a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing at the organization’s meeting this November. She is an associate professor at Yale School of Nursing.

CLASS OF 1994
Marylee Shaker Verdi (BSN) completed her MSN as a family nurse practitioner at George Washington University in 2015. She has been working at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire and in urgent care. Her interests are allergy and community health outreach. She is lead author of the article, “Economic Evaluation of Epinephrine Auto-Injectors for Peanut Allergy,” which appeared in the Annals of Allergy and Immunology. Marylee is currently developing innovative approaches to meeting students’ health care needs where they live at Dartmouth College. She lives with her husband and two sons (ages 14 and 17) in New London, New Hampshire.
CLASS OF 1996
Jennifer Couvillon (BSN, MS-Nursing 1999) is now the president of Chamberlain University College of Nursing at the Ochsner Health System campus. A news story states, “Dr. Couvillon oversees all aspects of campus operations including overall academic excellence, student services and support, operational efficiency, and student success. Prior to joining Chamberlain, Dr. Couvillon served as assistant vice president of system nursing professional development at Ochsner Health System and was an assistant professor of clinical nursing at Louisiana State University School of Nursing.”

CLASS OF 2002
Keavney Klein (BS-Health Studies, JD 2008) was awarded the Charles R. Fazio Volunteer of the Year from the Georgetown Club of Northern California. She received the honor in September at the 2018 Alumni Club Recognition Awards Celebration, which “recognizes the work of our 60+ alumni clubs and 400+ volunteers across the globe.” Keavney is a senator on Georgetown University Alumni Association’s Board of Governors.

CLASS OF 2003
Tracey Hartman (BSN) graduated from the University of Baltimore College of Public Affairs this past May with a master’s degree in public administration. In June, Tracey began a new job with the Maryland State Board of Elections as the director of special projects. She currently resides in Annapolis, Maryland with her fiancé, Spencer Joyce. The two, pictured here celebrating her graduation, plan to wed in 2019.

CLASS OF 2004
Thomas Matella (BSN) is a lieutenant commander and chief certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA) at Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton. He also chairs the hospital’s committee on health care ethics. He and his wife Kristen (C’02) have two children.

CLASS OF 2005
Stefanie Schrooter (BSN, MS-Nursing 2006, DNP 2016) has been selected as a fellow for the Duke-Johnson & Johnson Nurse Leadership Program. According to its website, “…This one-year leadership development program will train the advanced practice nurse to be better able to meet the challenges of the evolving health care environment. Fellows who successfully complete the program will be equipped with the skills and competencies to lead health care teams to increased operational efficiency and improved patient outcomes.”

CLASS OF 2011
Courtney Pladsen (MS-Nursing, DNP 2017) completed her doctorate at Georgetown in December. She moved to Portland, Maine, where she is leading the development of the first medical respite program in the state. She was also chosen for the 2018 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Culture of Health Leaders Fellowship for her passion of providing high-quality medical care to people who are experiencing homelessness and her enduring commitment to health equity. Courtney is grateful for all the support that Georgetown faculty members have provided and their work to foster a culture of social justice.

CLASS OF 2012
Philip Oladeji (BSN) worked as a registered nurse on an intensive-care step down unit after graduating from Georgetown. He received his medical degree from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in medicine this past June. Philip began his orthopaedic surgery residency at Emory University in July. He expects to finish in 2023.

CLASS OF 2013
Kendra Jones (BSN) graduated in May with her DNP degree in health innovation and leadership with a certificate in health care design from the University of Minnesota. She is now working at Anthem as a practice consultant. This fall, she will contribute to a pediatric asthma disparities research project at the University of Missouri as a health equity consultant. Next May, she is getting married to fellow Hoyas Jacob Ripp (C’13).

Jessica M. Kubisch (MS-Nursing) was elected as an emerging leader fellow on the Board of Directors of the National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists. According to the organization, the one-year fellowship is “for newly certified nurse anesthetists identified as future leaders in the profession [and] … is designed to expose rising leaders in nurse anesthesia to board governance, high level-decision making, and trends affecting the future of the profession.” Jessica currently works for Peace Harbor Medical Group in Florence, Oregon, and she serves as a director on the board of the Oregon Association of Nurse Anesthetists.

CLASS OF 2014
Casey Distaso (BS-Human Science, MD 2018) graduated from Georgetown University School of Medicine this past May. He began residency training at the University of Chicago Medicine in the field of emergency medicine. He will continue his interests in addressing health disparities and providing high quality health care.

Antonia Kopp (BS-Human Science) graduated from the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine in May 2018. She practiced cura personalis by researching how spirituality affects the health of adolescents with cystic fibrosis, resulting in a publication in the Journal of Religion and Health. Antonia is currently a resident physician at Nationwide Children’s Hospital, a top-ranked pediatric hospital in Columbus, Ohio, where she continues to apply the values she learned at Georgetown to her career in pediatrics.

Liz Moroni (MS-Health Systems Administration, MD 2018) graduated from Georgetown University School of Medicine in May with honors. She began her training in plastic and reconstructive surgery at the University of Pittsburgh, ranked third in the nation for plastic surgery training. After her six-year surgical residency, she hopes to return to the Hilltop by joining the faculty at MedStar Health.

ANTONIA KOPP

Visit nhs.georgetown.edu/news for the latest updates from the School of Nursing & Health Studies.
Denise Pattison (MS-Nursing), who lives in Cincinnati and works as a public health nurse practitioner in primary care, has been selected as a fellow for the Duke-Johnson Nurse Leadership Program. According to its website, “This one-year leadership development program will train the advanced practice nurse to be better able to meet the challenges of the evolving health care environment. Fellows who successfully complete the program will be equipped with the skills and competencies to lead health care teams to increased operational efficiency and improved patient outcomes.”

Princess D. Polidore (BS-Health Care Management & Policy, MPS 2008) previously worked at Georgetown University School of Medicine in the Offices of Medical Education and Admissions while earning her master of professional studies in technology management from the School of Continuing Studies. After graduating in May, Princess began working as a federal consultant for eGlobalTech, a strategy, information technology, and cyber-security consulting firm. She hopes to gain experience in health IT strategy and solutions.

CLASS OF 2015

Cayla Fappiano (BS-Human Science, MD 2021), a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force, completed Commissioned Officer Training in Montgomery, Alabama. She was recognized as a distinguished graduate, finishing in the top five percent of her class of more than 700 officers. Cayla, pictured here with her flight commander, is a second-year medical student at Georgetown interested in pursuing special operations medicine.

CLASS OF 2016

Monica Gibbons (BS-International Health) is currently a Fulbright scholar living and working in Maracaju, Brazil, as an English teaching assistant at a state university. Before moving to Brazil, she worked for the Hillary Clinton presidential campaign in North Carolina and lobbying for women’s rights in D.C. She looks forward to going to law school when she returns to continue working in human rights and public interest.

Robert Iannaccone (BS-Human Science) is a first-year student at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, where he received his white coat at a ceremony in August.

CLASS OF 2017

Jessica Herrera (MS-Nursing) is a certified nurse midwife and board-certified women’s health nurse practitioner. She is practicing in a full scope midwifery practice in southern New Mexico. She is a board member for the political action committee of the American College of Nurse-Midwives, the OB champion for her hospital’s Baby Friendly Initiative, and a preceptor to student nurse-midwives/practitioners. Jessica is working to bridge the gaps between advanced practice providers and physicians within her organization.

Michelle Xu (BS-Health Care Management & Policy, MD 2022) is a member of Georgetown University School of Medicine’s Class of 2022. She received her white coat at a special ceremony in August.

CLASS OF 2018

Chandler Hinson (BS-Global Health) presented a research poster this past summer at the congress of the Infection Control Africa Network (ICAN) in Cape Town. He conducted the research project at the National Institute for Medical Research in Tanzania, under the guidance of a preceptor, while doing the major’s senior research practicum abroad. Chandler is now a student at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine.

Harry Tsou (BS-Human Science, MD 2022) is a member of Georgetown University School of Medicine’s Class of 2022. In August, he participated in the school’s White Coat Ceremony with his classmates.

Ellen Layton Mullarkey (DNP) is a family nurse practitioner in St. Petersburg, Florida. She will be presenting the findings of her research on the “Effects of Art Therapy on Hypertension in Black American Women” at the American Art Therapy Association’s national conference, which takes place October 31 to November 4 in Miami. About this photo, she writes, “painting of how living with hypertension makes one feel.”

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