



Millersville University Nursing Department Newsletter

Fall 2025



WEHRHEIM
SCHOOL OF NURSING
Millersville University

Wehrheim School of Nursing: Millersville University
College of Science and Technology
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WSON Chair Update



Dr. Kelly Kuhns, WSON Chair

Greetings from the Wehrheim School of Nursing (WSON)! We are excited to share our latest newsletter with you! Each year, as I write my chair message, I review my messages from previous years. Over the past ten years, each of these messages has been filled with program growth, new programs, new faculty, and student growth. This year, I'm thrilled to report that this fall, we have nearly 600 nursing students – more than a 27% increase in the past year! In addition, we welcome Dr. Michele Chronister as our newest full-time faculty member.

The two areas where we've seen the most student growth are in our online MSN programs and in our RN to BSN Concurrent Enrollment Program, which enrolls students concurrently at HACC and MU. In Fall 2024, we launched our first fully online cohort of MSN FNP students and we continue to see strong enrollment and performance in this program. Our first cohort of fully online FNP students will complete their degree requirements in December 2026. At the undergraduate level, our unique partnership with HACC, allowing students to take BSN courses while they complete the associate's degree continues to grow and flourish. Finally, in May 2025, we welcome our largest ever DNP cohort with 12 new students!

As with many of my past chair messages, I'm excited to share yet another new Wehrheim School of Nursing initiative with you. Over the past year, we've been working on establishing a process for awarding credit for prior learning to our RN to BSN students. With this program, students who have completed a nurse residency, ED course, ICU course, etc, have the opportunity to submit their certificate and verification of lecture hours for review. Following faculty review and approval, students can be awarded 1 – 3 credits (based on hours) of credits for these programs. We've already approved most of the local residency programs, meaning students just need to submit their certificate of completion. This is a great benefit to our students and another way we are innovating to best serve our students.

Finally, I will be off on sabbatical during the spring 2026 term. I'm excited to pursue some different research opportunities, including working with FNP alumni to deliver healthcare clinics in Kenya. During my absence, Dr. Susan Moyer will be the acting chair. Dr. Moyer recently completed the prestigious NLN LEAD Institute and I know she will be a strong guide for the Wehrheim School of Nursing.

We would love to hear from our alumni about the great things you are doing! Have you presented or published? Been appointed to a special project? Changed jobs? Drop us an email at nursing@millersville.edu to let us know!



Meet Our 2025-2026 Graduate Assistants



Hello, my name is Hannah Coldren. I am an MSN graduate student at Millersville University in the Family Nurse Practitioner concentration. I am a graduate assistant for the Wehrheim School of Nursing, and I am set to graduate in May 2026. I have been a registered nurse for 6 years and currently work within the float pool for UPMC Harrisburg Hospital and as an adjunct clinical instructor for HACC in Harrisburg. Prior to working at UPMC in the float pool, I worked at Geisinger Lewistown Hospital in the intermediate care unit. I have been married to my husband, Matthew, for 5 years. He is also a nurse and together we have a 2-year-old daughter named Madeline and a Corgi named Willow. In my free time, I enjoy reading, gardening, cooking/baking, and enjoying time with my family!

Hi, my name is Laura Olson. I am an MSN-FNP nursing student at Millersville University, and I am also a graduate assistant for the Wehrheim School of Nursing. I have been a registered nurse for about 12 years. I am originally from the Chicago area in Illinois and did most of my nursing there. I then decided to do some travel nursing in Indiana, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts. I currently work at UPMC Harrisburg Hospital in the ED Observation unit, and I am also an adjunct instructor with HACC one day a week. I have a dog, Bruno, who is a troublemaker and a tabby cat, Pepper, who is very sweet. They keep me busy most days when I am off. For fun, I love to go on walks, exercise, and hang out with family and friends.



My name is Desiree Goodrich. I am an FNP student and graduate assistant at the Wehrheim School of Nursing at Millersville University. I am currently in my third year and will graduate in May 2026. I have a BS in Biochem/Health Sciences from Lock Haven University and a BSN in Nursing from Gwynedd Mercy University. I have worked in several emergency departments in Pennsylvania since 2013. I have worked as a scribe, scribe manager, RN, and RN manager. Currently, I work in the Pre/Post Op and PACU units at LGH and LOG. I have been married to my husband, Charlie, for three years as of this past October. We do not have any children, yet, but we have two dogs (Teddy and Waffles) and three cats (Oliver, Warren, and Daisy). In my spare time, I love to read, run, and lift weights. I direct a race every third Saturday in Akron and absolutely love seeing people crush their goals! I also like to travel with every chance I get. I already have several trips lined up in the future, including a trip to Amsterdam. Through my experiences in healthcare and education, I am interested in learning more about, and possibly pursuing, sports medicine as a career.

Hi! My name is Danielle Wah. I graduated from the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford in 2021 with an Associate of Science in Nursing and completed my Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Millersville University in 2024. I am a Registered Nurse with four years of experience and am currently pursuing my Family Nurse Practitioner degree at Millersville University, where I also serve as a graduate assistant. Beyond Millersville, I work as a clinical adjunct faculty member at Reading Area Community College (RACC). Most of my professional background is in Medical-Surgical nursing at Ephrata Community Hospital, with additional experience in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at both Ephrata Community Hospital and York Hospital. This past summer, I worked as a travel nurse at Virginia Beach General Hospital in the Oncology Medical-Surgical unit. Most recently, I transitioned into pediatric home health nursing. Outside of nursing, I enjoy staying active and spending quality time with family and friends. I love traveling to new cities, and I'm an avid beachgoer—especially in the summer! I also enjoy exercising, going to the gym with my brother Richard, and spending time with my dogs, Cookie and Rocky.





WSON New Full Time Faculty



Dr. Michele Chronister

Dr. Michele Chronister joins the faculty in a full-time, tenure-track position, bringing a wealth of clinical and academic experience. She began her nursing journey at the University of Pittsburgh, earning her BSN in 1993. A two-time graduate of Millersville University, she received her Master of Science in Nursing - Family Nurse Practitioner (MSN-FNP) in 2014 and her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) in 2020. Dr. Chronister continues to practice as a Nurse Practitioner while sharing her expertise with students. She has been a valued member of the university community, first as adjunct faculty and then as regular part-time faculty for the past five years. She is happily married with five children. In her free time, she loves to travel, play golf, and practices hot yoga daily, for which she is also completing a teaching certification.



WSON New Adjunct Faculty



Susan Richwine,
MSN, RN, CCRN, NE-BC, CAVRN

Susan Richwine is a distinguished professional in the field of Critical and Intensive Care and Tele-Health, with an impressive 33 years of experience. With a robust background in program development, workflow design, and project management, Susan has consistently demonstrated her expertise in enhancing healthcare delivery systems. She is a graduate of Alvernia College where she completed her ADN, University of Phoenix completing her BSN, and Western Governors University with a MSN in Nursing Leadership and Administration. Susan is pursuing her DNP here at Millersville. She is the founder and director of the PA Capitol Region Nurse Honor Guard, President of SVAACN, Ambassador with AACN, Mentor with ANA, and Committee Member for the CAVRN Test Development with AMSN/MSNCB. Ms. Richwine finds pure joy in spending time with her four grandchildren, and is an avid baker.



Bridgett Bilenski, MSN, RN, NCSN

Bridgett Bilenski is new to Millersville University this fall. She has been a certified school nurse with the North Allegheny School District since 2011, where she also has served as the head nurse of the district for several years. Bridgett is a member of the National Association of School Nurses, along with the Pennsylvania Association of School Nurses and Practitioners, where she serves as a board member representing the southwest region of Pennsylvania and also serves as the Special Needs group leader for the organization. Recently, she has co-authored a chapter in the textbook *Clinical Considerations in School-based Health: An Evidence-based Guide for Physicians, Advanced Practice Providers, and School Nurses*. Prior to working in school nursing, she has spent several years working in the neonatal and pediatric intensive care units of hospitals in Pittsburgh, PA. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her husband and family, reading a good novel, and participating in activities with her church.



Ken Koppenhaver, PhD

Ken Koppenhaver is a dedicated professional with a deep passion for nursing and education. Currently serving as an adjunct faculty member in the nursing department at Millersville University, Kenneth brings a wealth of experience and expertise to the table from 20 years in the health information technology field.



Rebecca Cassel, DNP, RN, MSN, NE-BC

Rebecca Cassel has been a nurse in south central PA for over 20 years, her primary experience clinically has been acute care. In leadership roles Rebecca has had the opportunity to collaborate with service lines and outpatient care settings to work to impact organizational goals. Her work in translation and implementation of EBP have focused on the quality and safety in the care environment, retention, and engagement, as well as stress and burnout of direct care nursing teams.



Emily Serikstad, DNP, FNP-BC

Emily Serikstad is a board-certified Family Nurse Practitioner. She is a proud three-time graduate of Millersville University, most recently earning her DNP in 2023. Emily currently serves as a Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner in Cardiology at Penn State Health and holds the role of Lead Advanced Practice Provider for the Community Medical Group Cardiology team. She resides in Dover, PA with her husband, two-year old daughter, and Belgian Malinois.



2025 Breast-A-Ville & Fall Wellness Fair



Wednesday October 1st, 2025
WSON graduate students and
Dr. Chronister teamed up to
provide education on breast
cancer awareness and screening
tips at the 14th annual Breast-A-
Ville by sponsoring a table!



Wednesday November 12, 2025
WSON undergraduate and
graduate students and
Dr. Moyer teamed up to provide
education on stress reduction
and BP screenings!





Tribute to FNP Faculty Dr. Jaima Brown-Kishbaugh by Dr. Cayleigh Minter

My friend, Dr. Jaima Lee Brown-Kishbaugh or known by her students as “Dr. JBK”, 48 years old, of Mechanicsburg, PA, passed away peacefully at home on June 18, 2025, surrounded by her family and loved ones, after a courageous and awful battle with breast cancer. Dr. JBK “was a graduate of Millersburg High school, and her early career spanned customer service, manufacturing, and real estate, but her true calling was nursing.”

She “pursued her passion with remarkable determination”, earning her nursing degree from HACC. Following her ADN, she worked at the PinnacleHealth toxicology unit, and later the emergency department at Harrisburg Hospital. She was a fierce patient advocate and was not afraid to defend what she felt was best for her patient. Jaima and I worked alongside a group of nurses, that became family. She helped me navigate the early days of becoming an RN, and encouraged me to always “look it up” if I was unsure.

While juggling being a single mom, she pursued her BSN and later, her MSN FNP from Millersville University. We carpooled twice a week for three years to our FNP courses in Lancaster. Those miles and that time together further solidified our friendship, through all the chats, and study sessions in the car. I remember her recalling page numbers or tables from our text, and I was always absolutely in awe (and extremely envious) of her photographic memory. Following graduation, she began her FNP role in endocrinology at UPMC and later the department of Veterans Affairs. She absolutely loved her VA patients, and was so very passionate about the care she provided.



During her years as an FNP, she had two more sons, Liam and Ryker. She was absolutely a Disney addict, and was always up for an outdoor adventure. She and her husband Steve purchased a RV and the four of them would travel frequently, with her dog (a giant ridgeback) Akeya. Jaima embraced her friendships, and enjoyed spending time with them. She was determined, quick witted, a little bit sassy, and overall just an incredible human being. I know her absence is noted by her family, friends, patients, and students alike.

Beyond clinical practice, and throughout all of her nursing career, she was actively engaged as faculty with HACC as clinical faculty, and as adjunct FNP faculty at Millersville. She had an insatiable thirst for knowledge and was always challenging herself in and out of the classroom. Even in her last days, as we sat together, she was sending me articles from Epocrates for "light reading". She was an invaluable part of the MU Dixon Center/ Central Penn FNP cohorts and expertly reconstructed the pathophysiology and pharmacology courses during her time at the University.

After recurrence of her breast cancer, about a year and a half after achieving remission, she decided, yet again, she would challenge herself by finishing her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree. This process was not an easy path for her, and she faced many challenges. Despite all her commitments, treatments, and barriers, she was determined, and in true Jaima fashion, achieved her goal. Her DNP project was instrumental in implementing the HESI board preparation examinations in the MU FNP program. I was able to place her doctorate hood as her DNP degree was conferred at winter commencement, 2024. Upon graduation she was also earned the D. Joan Godfrey Nursing Award which is awarded to one to three nursing students based on participation in the nursing program and nursing network, along with other campus activities, and for involvement in the nursing profession and in excellent academic standing. This award, as well as her determination to complete her degree while fighting a terminal disease, is a powerful example of her character and grit.

Her departure has been sorrowful. She leaves shoes that no other can fill. I miss her terribly, especially our telephone calls and the way I could get [informal] STAT expert endocrinology consultations via text message. The Wehrheim School of Nursing faculty and I would like to keep her memory alive by introducing the Dr. JBK Dragonfly Award, a \$500 dollar scholarship for those who are actively pursuing a nursing degree. Criteria includes that applicants must be an active Sigma Theta Tau, Xi Chi Chapter, member who hold a 3.8 or greater GPA, and who are committed to nursing education while holding a concurrent nursing faculty role. She left a permanent impression and a mark on many students, patients, and colleagues in their nursing practice and beyond. Millersville University and I are honored to have been a part of her legacy.



"The definition of a nurse: To go above and beyond the call of duty...who will pass through your life for a minute and impact it for an eternity".



Dr. Jenny Monn Retires

Dr. Jenny Monn has formally retired as full time Nursing faculty following the Spring 2025 semester. Dr. Monn has served as a member of the Nursing faculty, beginning as an adjunct clinical family nurse practitioner supervisor in 2008, then as tenure track faculty beginning in 2013, where she was later promoted to associate professor and continued to serve the Wehrheim School of Nursing until retirement in June 2025. She served the University and her students for 17 years.

She herself is a proud Millersville Alumni, where she completed her BSN in 2003, and her MSN and certification as a Family Nurse Practitioner in 2007. She completed her Doctor of Nursing Practice from York College of Pennsylvania in 2015. During her tenure here at Millersville, she served a key role in many departmental and University committees. She also was awarded many awards including, the Xi Chi Excellence in Nursing Research Award – Millersville University (2003), the Joan Godfrey Award, Department of Nursing – Millersville University (2003, 2007), Induction into the Sigma Theta Tau National Nursing Honor Society (2003), the Who's Who Among College Graduates (2003), the Mildred E. Souder Service Award, St. Joseph Hospital School of Nursing (1995), and the Association of Operating Room Nurses Perioperative Nursing Award (1995).

Beyond working in academia, Dr. Monn continues to serve in the community as an FNP at Penn Medicine-Lancaster General and enjoys keeping her skills current in the urgent care setting. She also remains a full-time cat mom to her numerous fur babies.

In retirement, she is delving into her volunteer work including crocheting prayer shawls for a local church and blankets for a local cat shelter. Dr. Monn is a talented crocheter and has an expert green thumb. She also remains fully engaged in the Pennsylvania Coalition of Nurse Practitioners and will continue to volunteer for that organization.

We are excited to announce that the Wehrheim School of Nursing faculty has moved Dr. Monn's name forward for Faculty Emeritus designation. Faculty, colleagues, and her students have all been impacted by her expertise and knowledge through the years and we believe such a distinction is necessary. We wish Dr. Monn the best in her retirement and beyond!





Faculty Accomplishments



Cross-disciplinary Education

Dr. Teresa Hartmann and Dr. Dawn Lambert provided an educational session for the Special Education majors at Millersville. This cross-disciplinary project was for students in the early days of their student teaching experiences. Drs. Hartmann and Lambert provided information on common medical conditions and the appropriate educator response for students affected by illness and disability in K-12 environments.

Take a Hike

This past Spring, faculty in the Wehrheim School of Nursing (WSN) participated again in the annual Employee Wellness Take-a-Hike event. This event provides an opportunity for

MU employees to gather a team and see how far the team can “hike” in the selected location. Teams usually consist of 12 employees, and each team member is tasked with recording their weekly miles accrued by walking or doing various types of physical activities. At the end of each week, the team captain reports out the total weekly miles accrued by the team. The goal of the event is to promote camaraderie, teamwork, and wellness among the MU community and see how far each team achieves on the hike. In the past, the location of the hikes were based on specific national or international trails.

However, this past Spring, the Employee Wellness committee devised their first AI-generated route focused on Jurassic Park. Take-a-Hike participants were challenged to “hike” approximately 2800 miles of AI-generated trails based on Jurassic Park movie scenes. This was a fun and creative way to engage in the event, especially as the new Jurassic Park movie was being released in the Summer. Led by team captain and faculty member, Dr. Susan Moyer, the WSN team, named the Wehrheim Walkers, walked an amazing 2,980 miles, conquering all of the trails during the 10-week event. Way to go, Wehrheim Walkers! The WSN is walking for wellness, one step at a time!





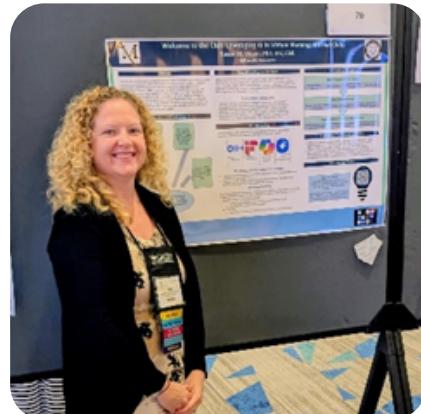
Dr. Susan Moyer—Learning to LEAD

Earlier this year, Dr. Susan Moyer, associate professor in the Wehrheim School of Nursing at Millersville University, was selected to participate in the year-long National League for Nursing (NLN) 2025 LEAD program. The LEAD program was founded in 2011 and was designed for nurses in education and practice who are transitioning into leadership positions or who desire to gain additional leadership skills.

Dr. Moyer's 2025 NLN LEAD cohort consists of 22 nurse educators chosen from colleges, universities, and health care institutions. This yearlong program represents a significant investment in professional leadership development with participants spending a calendar year engaged in various activities. As part of this program, Dr. Moyer has engaged in several leadership webinars and virtual group coaching sessions and has been working one-on-one with an executive leadership coach.

Dr. Moyer has used the LEAD program as an opportunity to research and develop new initiatives to enhance the faculty experience in the WSON. Such initiatives include the development of a virtual nursing faculty orientation course and creation of a virtual TLC or Teaching and Learning Community to support faculty engagement and professional development within the WSON. These initiatives are currently in development with implementation planned in 2026. Additionally, as part of the program, Dr. Moyer has had the opportunity to work with nationally recognized nurse leaders at the NLN Headquarters in Washington, D.C. and attend and present at the NLN's Nursing Education Summit, which was held on September 17-19 in Orlando, FL.

Overall, the NLN LEAD program is a highly respected leadership program in the field of nursing education. The opportunity to participate in LEAD and gain knowledge and skills to be an effective leader will be invaluable as Dr. Moyer recently started in a new position as the Assistant Chair of the Wehrheim School of Nursing. Dr. Moyer is grateful for the opportunity and the support from the WSON to participate in this program.





2025 Annual Scholarship Symposium

MSN Poster Presenter Winners

- 1. Kelly Grimes - Let's Talk About Sex: Utilization of a Questionnaire to Increase Sexual Health Assessments for Adult Female Patients**
- 2. Idalis Maceo Herrera - Improving Behavioral Therapy and Medications in Children with ADHD**
- 3. Anet McPherson Melendez - The Effectiveness of M-CHAT Screening and Its Impact on Early Autism Diagnosis and Interventions in Toddler Population**



MSN Podium Presenter Winners

- 1. Bridgett Bilenski - Exploring the Practice of Debriefing Among School Nurses**
- 2. Anthony Dorazio - Use of a Split Flow Model to Improve Emergency Department Throughput**
- 3. Amanda Moyer - PTSD Assessment in Adult Veterans in non-VA Associated Family Practice: Tools and Management Resources for the FNP**



2025 MSN Graduates

