WELCOME

I am delighted to welcome you to our 3rd annual Theresa Patnode Santmann School of Health Sciences Newsletter. After reviewing our last 2 newsletters, I continue to be impressed that each year our faculty, staff, and students surpass accomplishments from previous years. And of particular note was the awarding of Educator of the Year to Dr. Cristina Casa-Levine by the American Dental Hygienists’ Association. Pass/Licensure rates continue to exceed State and National averages for all departments, and our graduates find positions almost immediately upon graduation.

We have had several administrative changes over the past several months. Dr. Karen Escolas, long time chair of MLS and former dean of Health Sciences has taken a position in the Catskills region of New York, and will be replaced by Dr. Susan Corforti, another long-time faculty member and former chair of the department. I know we all extend our best wishes to Karen for future success. Another administrative change will involve Dr. Jenny Bryer leaving her position as Assistant Dean of Health Sciences to become Interim Assistant Provost beginning September 1st. Her many years of service to the Nursing Department as both faculty and chair will be missed as will her overall service to the School of Health Sciences as Assistant Dean. I wish Jenny well in her new role, and I know she will be very successful. A national search will begin soon to fill the assistant dean position. Also, I’d like to welcome Ms. Corinna Magno, Administrative Assistant to the Dean, who replaced Ms. Debbie Faulhaber upon her retirement last year.

We have had a number of faculty retirements and resignations over the past year. I am pleased to report that we have been most successful in offering positions to many extremely qualified candidates, and I am especially enthusiastic that these new faculty represent a very diverse background and are representative of the culture and ethnicity of many of our students.

In closing I look forward to a very productive academic year and I encourage all alumni, and friends of the School to continue to keep tract of our progress toward excellence in health care education.

Dr. Denny Ryman, Dean
PUBLICATIONS

Monica Diamond-Caravella, Reopening a Dialog on Open Airways for Schools: Closing the Educational Gap Using a Multi-Site Academic-Practice Partnership, The OhioLINK ETD Center, 2019.

Monica Diamond-Caravella, When Reach Exceeds Touch: Student Experiences in a Cross-Sector Community-Based Academic-Practice Partnership (2019), Public Health Nursing, 36(3) 2019, 1 - 10.


Francine Laterza, Benefits of Peer Mentoring Programs in Nursing Education Public Health Nursing, 36(3) 2019, 1 - 10.

Sherry Manansingh, Effects of Relaxation Techniques on Nursing Students’ Test Anxiety and Academic Stress, Journal of Nursing Education

PRESENTATIONS


Joanne Lapidus-Graham, “Empowering faculty and students to be leaders: Annual meeting of the Chi Gamma Honor Society of Sigma.” Farmingdale State College on May 22, 2019.

Maria Nikolaidou, "Variables that Influence Retention in RN to BS Students: A Multisite Longitudinal Study." Poster presented at the Adelphi University Annual Leadership Conference: Nursing Leadership: Future Challenges and Opportunities, Garden City Hotel, Garden City, NY on May 1, 2019.

Sherry Manansingh, “The Relationship of Relaxation Technique, Test Anxiety, Academic Stress, and Nursing Students Intention to Stay In A Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program.” Presentation to the Seventh Annual Leadership Symposium, St. John’s University, Queens, NY on March 16, 2019.


Joanne Lapidus-Graham, "Empowering Students to be Leaders." Paper presented to the Nursing Student Association of New York State (NSANYS) annual convention, New York, NY on February 9, 2019.

Kathleen Cino, “Cultural Competency Health Literacy Training.” Workshop conducted at Nassau University Hospital Medical Center on January 17, 2019.


Nancy Maggio, “The Effects of Heart Failure Education on Nursing Staff's Knowledge and Confidence in a Skilled Nursing Facility.” Poster presented at the Celebration of Scholarship, SUNY Farmingdale on October 30, 2018.


Virginia Peterson and Jennifer Bryer, “QSEN: Where are We Now?” Workshop conducted at the QSEN Workshop, Farmingdale State College on September 12, 2018.

Monica Diamond-Caravella, “Reopening a Dialog on Open Airways for Schools: Closing the Educational Gap for Children with Asthma Using a Multi-Site Academic-Practice Partnership.” Webinar presenter, New York State Public Health Association on July 18, 2018.

Kathleen Cino, “Aromatherapy Hand Massage for Older Adults with Chronic Pain” Paper presented to the NYU Langone Health 22 Annual Nursing Research Conference, NYU Langone Health on June 19, 2018.


Nancy Maggio, “The Effects of Heart Failure Education on Nursing Staff’s Knowledge and Confidence in a Skilled Nursing Facility.” Presentation to the 8th Annual Nursing Research Conference, presented at Mather Hospital Northwell Health, Hilton Garden Inn, Stony Brook, NY on June 15, 2018.


GRANTS

Maria Nikolaidou, FSC 4Pi Teaching Incentive for ‘Hybrid Course Development,” (2017) $1,500.


Dr. Maria Nikolaidou and Dr. Lynn Johnson received a $3,000 4Pi grant for online course development in spring 2019.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
Civic engagement and applied learning are at the core of the Farmingdale nursing department’s curriculum. These types of initiatives are designed to promote meaningful community engagement through service, formal education and reflective journaling.

SERVICE
Nursing students must complete a minimum of one civic engagement venue during their time at Farmingdale. These venues include participation in: (a) local hospital-sponsored flu clinics geared to senior citizens and other community members; (b) Heart Screen®; (c) the annual Long Island Coalition for the Homeless spring event; (d) hospital-based disaster preparedness drills; (e) public school district blood pressure screenings events and much more. Students see firsthand the critical importance of health promotion in community settings. Pictured is Dr. Sherry Manansingh and Professor Suzanne Elie with students: Natalie Bolkun, Neslihan Kasap, Erin Purack and Jenna Rocco at a recent December blood pressure screening event for Farmingdale School District’s Community Summit.

EDUCATION
Embedded in the department’s community health nursing courses is the foundational concept of applied learning. These experiential courses strive to promote active learning through credit-bearing clinical hours. As students apply knowledge and professional nursing skills gained in the classroom to high-needs communities, they gain a deep understanding of population-based, community, civic and social justice issues. These mutually beneficial partnerships aim to assist students to apply newfound knowledge back to their academic learning.

Community partners and preceptors from local community agencies, nonprofit organizations and public-school districts were recently honored in June at a formal reception for their sustainable commitment to our students.

REFLECTION
Structured opportunity exists for students to identify the relevance of their experience through reflective self-assessment and analysis of their unique engagement with the community. Only through reflective journaling do students truly appreciate the vital nature of their applied learning experience.
THE HENNY CARE BAG
SERVICE PROJECT
As part of our commitment to service, Chi Gamma has been very active in developing and promoting the Henny Care Bag project. The Henny Care Bag is a gift of items that patients can use at home after a mastectomy. The idea for this project was initiated by Harriet (Henny) Goldenberg, a dental hygiene professor, who is a breast cancer survivor. This gift is given to patients who are unable to obtain the necessary items that they need for recovery. The Chi Gamma Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau conducts fundraising and partners with various organizations to obtain these items. We are proud to announce that we have received a grant of one thousand dollars annually for 4 years from Henry Schein Cares, to support our project! Henry Schein is committed to "helping health happen" through their global social responsibility program, Henry Schein Cares.

LIFE SERIES SPEAKER EVENT
On December 10th, 2018 Chi Gamma had the privilege of hosting Mr. Scott Rutherford and "live" his life journey towards a heart transplantation. His description of the challenges he faced as a child was very vivid and emotionally moving. His life story was very inspirational and provided a deep understanding of the patient’s perspective when facing life and death health issues and the importance of organ donation.

NARCAN TRAINING
On Friday May 3, 2019 a Narcan training session was presented by Dr. David Neubert, MD, Medical Director for the Town of Hempstead and Lila Hageman-Sheehan, BSN, RN, Chi Gamma member. Many nursing students attended the event and received a Narcan kit.

SIGMA BIENNIAL CONVENTION
Our members, Drs. Bryer, Nikolaidou, and Peterson-Graziose will be presenting their research titled "Variables that Influence Retention in RN-BS Students: A Multisite Longitudinal Study" at the Sigma Biennial Convention to be held in Washington DC, on November 16-20, 2019.

PEER MENTOR PROGRAM
The peer mentoring program collected over 100 toys and gifts to distribute to the children at Brookside Nursing Multicare Center for the 1st annual holiday toy drive. On December 21, the peer mentors and nursing faculty distributed toys, clothing, and sang a list of holiday tunes accompanied by guitar to the children and staff. It was delightful to witness the children laughing and tapping their hands and feet to the music. It was a fun and memorable afternoon in preparation for the holiday season!

NURSES WEEK CELEBRATION
In honor of Nurses Week, Chi Gamma members held a self-care day for nurses at the Greenley Hall Library lobby on May 7, 2019. This was an event for destressing during finals week by offering hand and neck massages, herbal teas, and relaxation techniques to students.
The Medical Laboratory Technology Department received an official name change to the Medical Laboratory Science Department, which more accurately reflects the BS level degree now offered. All courses offered in the program are designated MLS, and the complete revision of courses in the curriculum has been finalized.

At the conclusion of the 2018-2019 academic year, Dr. Karen Escolas will no longer serve as MLS Dept Chair and Program Director as she relocates from Long Island. Dr. Susan Conforti took on the responsibilities of MLS Dept Chair and Program Director beginning July 1, 2019. Ms. Betsy Shortall, Secretary I transferred to the MLS Department in June 2019.

Welcome Betsy!

The MLS Department hired a Regional Clinical Coordinator through NYS High Needs Grant funds awarded for a Medical Technology Curriculum Enhancement project. This Coordinator has been contacting clinical laboratories throughout New York State in an attempt to develop affiliation agreements that would allow our students to complete clinical internships at these additional facilities. As a result, there are currently several affiliation agreements in development.

The MLS Department received a 2018 ASCP Foundation Laboratory Science Program Director Education Grant from the American Society for Clinical Pathology. Funds from this grant were used to purchase materials to support the newly created MLS Capstone course required for all student in the last semester prior to graduation from the MLS BS program. Materials purchased will support the students’ preparation for taking the ASCP Board of Certification exam needed for professional practice after graduation.

The faculty members of the MLS department will be conducting research on their newly offered MLS Capstone course. This course has been implemented to ensure that students are properly prepared to sit for their national certification board exam by the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) upon graduation. An online exam simulator has been incorporated into the course, and will be utilized to track student exam scores. Results from these mock exams will be compared with ASCP certification groups in students who have had the course with those who have not, to determine if the course is accomplishing this goal. The research will take place over the next two to three years.

**DR. KAREN ESCOLAS**
Dr. Karen Escolas has continued to serve as a member of the Review Committee for Accredited Programs (RCAP) of the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Science (NAACLS). The committee met in Austin, TX, in July 2018, and again through teleconference in February 2019, to award accreditation status to other Medical Laboratory Science programs throughout the United States. In addition, Dr. Escolas has worked throughout the year reviewing Program Director approval forms and other documentation necessary for Medical Laboratory Science programs to maintain accreditation through NAACLS. In October, Dr. Escolas traveled to North Carolina as a NAACLS Site Visitor.

**DR. SUSAN CONFORTI**
Dr. Susan Conforti was promoted to Full Professor in September 2018. Dr. Conforti was selected to serve as Co-Chair of FSC’s Middle States reaccreditation steering committee and attended the Self-Study Institute, a 2-day workshop for representatives from institutions within the Middle States region that are undergoing self-study in preparation for an evaluation visit in 2021-2022.

In Spring 2019, Dr. Conforti completed a course in Assessment Leadership offered through the SUNY CPD program.

As a professional consultant for NAACLS, Dr. Conforti served as a self-study reviewer for the re-accreditation of the first internationally accredited MLS program at Qatar University, located in Doha, Qatar.

**DR. RITA AUSTIN**
Dr. Austin completed degree requirements for the Doctor of Health Education from the College of Graduate Health Studies at A.T. Still University. On May 29th she successfully presented her doctoral research titled: *Nurse Educator and Medical Laboratory Scientist: Assessing Knowledge and Attitude Following an Inter-professional Education.* Dr. Austin researched the interprofessional relationship between the Medical Laboratory Scientist and the Nurse and developed an educational video designed to improve nurse educator’s knowledge of the critical role that the MLS plays as a member of the healthcare team. The research was supported in part by an award from the Theresa Santmann School of Health Sciences Faculty Development Fund. Dr. Austin plans to expand her research on this very important topic and expects to present her findings at a professional conference in the near future.

**DR. CHRISTINE NEBOCAT**
Dr. Nebocat chaperoned a group of MLS students on a tour of TRUETOX Laboratories, LLC on March 29th, 2019. The students were able to observe the everyday operation of the laboratory, learn about the processing and testing of toxicology samples, and even sat in on a special presentation from the Laboratory Director.

Along with three officers of the MLS Club, on May 10th, Dr. Nebocat visited the Dix Hills Wilson Tech Campus of Western Suffolk BOCES. High school students from the medical laboratory assisting, nursing assisting, and medical assisting programs sat in for a presentation about the programs offered through Farmingdale’s School Health Science. The MLS students offered personal advice and stories to the group, who were grateful to have them as mentors!

Dr. Nebocat held a community presentation at the Bayport Blue Point Library in January titled, “Lab Tests! They’re Bloody Confusing!” The presentation provided local residents information about routine laboratory tests and how to interpret their results, encouraging health self-advocacy.

**DR. CHRISTINE NEBOCAT & DR. RITA AUSTIN**
Dr. Nebocat and Professor Austin volunteered at this year’s “Give Kids a Smile” event on February 22nd, along with some students from the MLS club.

MLS students toured the Cold Spring Harbor (CSH) Laboratory and learned about advances in cancer research with the help of live imaging microscopy.

MLS club officers handed out science themed Valentine’s Day cards and promoted the laboratory profession.

MLS students celebrated National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week April 21st - 27th with activities that included a luncheon honoring Dr. Karen Escolas, MLS Chairperson for 24 years of dedicated service.
In September 2018 the dental hygiene department welcomed Marija Cahoon, Jean Hall and Margarita Rivera as new full time faculty members in the department. In addition, Jessica Kahl who had served the department as an adjunct Instructional Support Specialist since 2010, joined the department as a full time Instructional Support Specialist—her role is to assist in the oversight of the Dental Hygiene Care Center and coordinate the departments continuing education program.

This spring Susan Vogell and Jean Hall both completed their doctoral work! The department is excited for them and proud of this major accomplishment. Congratulations Dr. Vogell and Dr. Hall.

Jean Hall completed her studies at AT Still University. Dr. Hall’s research focused on New York State Dental Hygienist Perceptions of an Interdisciplinary Model of Care for Patients with Diabetes who have Periodontal Disease.

Dr. Vogell graduated with her doctorate degree in educational leadership from the University of New England her research focus was on the “The Lived Experiences of Clinical Adjunct Dental Hygiene Faculty”

Dr. Cristina Casa-Levine was recognized by the American Dental Hygienists’ Association at their annual session in Louisville, Kentucky on June 24th. She has been recognized by the ADHA as “Educator of the Year” a most prestigious recognition.

Dr. Maureen Tsokris received the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Faculty Service.

Dr. Maureen Tsokris is now a site visitor with the Commission on Dental Accreditation.

SCHOLARSHIP
Sophomore dental hygiene students participated in the 2nd annual dental hygiene symposium held on October 25th in the Campus Center. Students created 14 poster presentation’s under the mentorship of faculty. Lynn Marsh, Cristina Casa-Levine, Marleen Azzam, Larry Pizzitola, Janet Gruber, Susan Vogell, Hanna Horowitz, Debbie Kirincic, Harriet Goldenberg, Barbara Greene, Daniela Taranto, Jennifer Blitz, Allison Fody, and Ann Lalehazarian all assisted students in the development of their posters.

Student’s Ariana Platis, Leah Ottenheimer, and Lorena Steuer winners of the poster event were selected to attend the American Dental Hygienists’ Association’s annual session to be held in Louisville, Kentucky in June. They will present their poster at this national meeting.

In addition, a number of student’s presented their work at the Greater New York Dental Meeting, held at the Jacob Javits Center in Manhattan last November, while others presented at the Greater Long Island Dental Meeting this past April.

PUBLICATIONS


ABSTRACT


RESEARCH POSTER PRESENTATION:

Dr. Luisa Nappo-Dattoma represented FSC and co-presented with faculty from other programs on the panel topic: “Active Student-Centered Pedagogies Across All Disciplines at Farmingdale State College” at the Faculty Resource Network National Symposium: Transforming Teaching Through Active Learning in Orlando, Florida on November 17, 2018. Dr. Nappo-Dattoma’s individual topic was: “The Use of Flipped Blended Learning Pedagogy in a Core Dental Hygiene Nutrition Course.” Abstract published in the symposium’s proceedings.

Dr. Luisa Nappo-Dattoma published an article titled; The Human Microbiome and Health in the March 2019 digital edition of Access, the national publication of the American Dental Hygienists’ Association.
Susan Vogell, in collaboration with three sophomore dental hygiene students, Xiomara Aragon, Mayra Guzman-Carbajal, and Ryan Galardi, published an article in *Dimensions* entitled, “Smokeless doesn’t equal safe” on the topic of e-cigarettes.

Jessica Kahl attended the Organization for Safety and Asepsis Prevention (OSAP) Boot Camp in Atlanta, Georgia this past January, 2019. This conference focused on the most current strategies and safe practices to help advocate safe and infection-free delivery of oral healthcare. The 3 day seminar was extremely informative and helped prove how well equipped the dental hygiene department is in providing optimal infection control education for all of their students.


Sophomore DH students along with Professor Harriet Goldenberg, Professor Allison Fody and Dr. Lynn Marsh at the Nassau County Cradle of Aviation GKAS event.

September 2018 – Janan Gruber and the dental hygiene SADHA officers planned a student “welcome dinner” at the Marriott Residences in Plainview. The dinner and games that were planned were designed to help freshman students integrate into the dental hygiene program. The dinner was well attended with 80 student and faculty present.

November 2018 – Janan Gruber coordinated with Dr. Larry Pizzitola the Give a Veteran a Smile hosted by SADHA and the Veterans Affairs office at FSC. The department donated over 250 wellness bags to Beacon House for Veterans. Donations were provided by Colgate, Designs for Vision, Dentsply, Oral B and Suffolk County Vietnam Veteran’s Association.

April 2019 – Candileght Homeless Vigil at Farmingdale State College. Twenty one students accompanied by faculty Professor Gruber and Dr. Hall performed oral cancer screenings and provided oral health education for attendees of the event.

Dr. Lynn Marsh presented information on Dental Hygiene and Oral Health to students at Walt Whitman High School Special Education Life Skills Classes.

Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing - Chi Gamma Chapter is proud to support the Henry Care Bag a post-op breast care bag project for breast cancer patients undergoing mastectomies. During her recovery of her double mastectomy Harriet Goldenberg, a Dental Hygienist and Adjunct Professor of the Dental Hygiene department at Farmingdale State College found these items in this bag to be very useful. Dr. Bonnie Ewing and Elizabeth Colgan, RN helped her collaborate with the nurses from the Chi Gamma chapter at Farmingdale State College. Since April 2014 Harriet Goldenberg’s idea flourished into a chapter project and 49 patients were provided, free of charge, with a Henry Care Bag. This year Professor Goldenberg was able to enlist the Henry Schein Inc as a generous donator for the project.

Faculty and students participated in a number of community outreach events this year including:

Give A Veteran a Smile- Dental Hygiene Care Center – Farmingdale State College

Nassau County Dental Society- Give Kids a Smile Day- Cradle of Aviation- Garden City, NY

Give Kids a Smile Day - Dental Hygiene Care Center- Farmingdale State College

Oral Cancer Screening for employees of the Henry Schein Inc.

Head Start Screening - Dental Hygiene Care Center - Farmingdale State College

Oral Cancer walk/run on June 9th at Heckscher State Park

On Sunday, June 9th, along with Dr. Lauren Argentina, Professor Allison Fody, Dr. Lynn Marsh, and Dr. Susan Vogell participated in the Oral Cancer 5k Run/Walk for Awareness. The event raised over $15,000 for oral cancer research and awareness efforts. Dr. Lauren Argentina an adjunct faculty member in the DH department is instrumental in organizing and planning this important annual event.

Dr. Susan Vogell and her son Michael participated in the 5K Oral Cancer Foundation Walk/Run June 9th.

Dental Hygiene students Ryan Galardi, Xiomara Aragon, Myra Guzman and Natalie Amaya provide oral hygiene educator to a local pre-school class.

Jessica Kahl had the pleasure of participating in West Hollow Middle School’s Career Day on May 23rd in Melville, NY. This outreach focused on introducing about 90 of the school’s 6th graders to the various aspects and duties of a dental hygienist.
The Nutrition Science and Wellness department welcomes its inaugural class this fall with new faculty and a full course enrollment in both Nutrition Science and Health Promotion and Wellness programs.

Dr. Stephen Samendinger joins the Health Promotion and Wellness Department faculty. Stephen received his Ph.D. from Michigan State University and brings health field expertise in areas such as health assessment, anatomy and physiology, and kinesiology. The department is rounded out with the addition of several new adjunct faculty bringing hands-on hospital, clinical, and private practice health experience to our students.

Many incoming pre-professional Nutrition Science majors are working toward graduation in Nutrition Science with the desire to directly apply for admission to professional degrees in: Medicine, Pharmacy, Nutraceuticals, Dentistry, Physical Assistant programs, Physical Therapy, and Occupational Therapy. The nutrition field is growing and our graduates are to play an integral part in maintaining health and fitness on Long Island and beyond.

Health Promotion and Wellness students, once graduated, are in demand in the corporate world as part of human resource departments attempting to keep their employee workforce as fit and healthy as possible. Insurance companies desire Health Promotion graduates because of their skills in health assessment and wellness program development/evaluation. Our program’s training aligns with these companies’ goals of increasing availability of preventive medicine to the insured public. If not directly seeking employment, our graduates leave Farmingdale prepared for graduate school entry in the fields of Health Education, Athletic Training, and Public Health.

The department is excited to officially begin course work as an active member of Farmingdale State College.
Health Sciences at Farmingdale State College