ALUMNA AND CON FACULTY MEMBER RENÉE RASSILYER-BOMERS, ’03, ’05, ’16 WAS DRIVING FORCE BEHIND SWEDISH COMMUNITY VACCINATION CLINIC AT SEATTLE UNIVERSITY

Reneé Rassilyer-Bomers entered Seattle University through the Matteo Ricci College where she completed her senior year of high school while simultaneously earning college credit. And she’s never left. A triple alumna and Naef Scholar, she earned bachelor’s degrees in nursing and humanities, then dove straight into the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program. In 2005 she joined the SU College of Nursing (CON) faculty, while concurrently navigating a professional trajectory into leadership at Swedish Hospital. In 2016 she completed the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program at SU.

Now the Chief Quality Officer in Swedish’s Clinical Excellence Division, Dr. Rassilyer-Bomers played an integral role in establishing the Swedish Community COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic at Seattle University. She and her team of care providers took on the urgent challenge to site, organize, coordinate and staff a clinic capable of administering 2,500 COVID-19 vaccines a day—a feat they accomplished within just two weeks. Their successful model received national media attention.

The Puget Sound Business Journal recognized Rassilyer-Bomers in its 2021 list of

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innovative industry leaders under age 40 for her work leading Swedish hospital’s COVID-19 vaccine efforts during the pandemic and as a key leader in launching the vaccine clinic held at SU.

**CALLED TO BATTLE COVID-19**

When the COVID-19 vaccine arrived in Seattle in December 2020, Rassilyer-Bomers helped roll out on-site vaccination clinics for employees on the five Swedish hospital campuses. By early January, as the state of Washington looked toward vaccinating community members, they realized there weren’t many entities in the community that had the infrastructure ready to go right away and that in many areas of the state, hospitals were the best-equipped places to vaccinate high-risk groups quickly.

“There are many organizations, like local pharmacies or the neighborhood clinic, lacked the infrastructure to deliver vaccinations in large mass, as well as to manage accompanying complications,” Rassilyer-Bomers explains, “like keeping the Pfizer vaccine hyper-frozen, handling required consent forms and immunization records and monitoring each vaccine recipient for 15 minutes in case of anaphylactic reactions.”

That’s when Governor Inslee and the Department of Health called for hospitals to step in and help vaccinate 500 community members a day, in addition to their own employees. With five campuses, this meant 2,500 additional daily vaccinations were allocated to the Swedish Health System.

“We couldn’t bring an additional 2,500 people onto our hospital campuses because of the exposure risk,” says Rassilyer-Bomers. “We don’t have enough parking and we’ve got COVID-19 patients. Right away I texted Dr. Swanson, dean of SU’s College of Nursing, and said I need help. I need space to provide 2,500 COVID-19 vaccinations a day.”

Within a few hours on New Year’s weekend, Dean Swanson obtained permission from then President Stephen Sundborg, S.J., Provost Shane P. Martin and Vice President and University Counsel Mary S. Peterson to host a COVID-19 community serving clinic on the university campus. Rassilyer-Bomers met with her team over a weekend to plan their strategy for organizing a high-volume vaccination clinic at Campion Hall on short turnaround. They created a “playbook” modeled after Swedish’s in-hospital employee vaccination clinics and adapted for SU.

“We began putting teams of SU and Swedish employees and volunteers together and worked with some great outside vendors,” she says. “Within a week we had 40 computers with Wi-Fi access, secure online systems for registering volunteers and patients and lots of vaccination stations set up in the space. We were ready for a walk-thru and simulation on day 10 and the clinic opened on day 12. While we vaccinated the community at the SU clinic, Swedish continued vaccinating our employees and community providers on our hospital campuses.”

Swedish administered nearly 87,000 vaccinations at its clinics in response to the state’s call, with approximately 48,000 given at the SU site. Nearly
one-fifth of the Swedish volunteers were affiliated with the university.

**THE PLAYBOOK**

Word spread about the “playbook” Swedish created, which was distributed nationwide as a model for other COVID-19 vaccination clinics.

“Representatives from other hospitals, local government and businesses are using our playbook,” Rassilyer-Bomers says. “Administrators from Microsoft, Amazon and Starbucks visited the SU clinic to check out our design. Officials from the Public Health Department and Snohomish County also visited. Places utilizing the playbook provide us feedback on what is and isn’t working and their recommendations. We continue to adapt the book based on this feedback. This is an iterative process, much like any other endeavor in science and medicine.

“The Swedish Community COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic at Seattle University exemplifies the power of community partnership between academia and industry in moving the mountains we need to move to be a better society,” she adds. “I hope to see this kind of partnership replicated in a multitude of areas.”

Swedish went on to work with the City of Seattle to open a mass vaccination site at Lumen Field Event Center, capable of servicing 154,000 people a week. The design of that site was based on the SU model.

**AN ONGOING CONNECTION TO SEATTLE UNIVERSITY**

For years Rassilyer-Bomers taught undergraduate nursing courses five mornings a week in the CON while working night shift positions at Swedish.

“I love teaching,” she reflects. “I think it’s just the ability to support somebody’s learning and to see their joy. I used to teach Health Assessment, the first undergraduate nursing course when everything is new to the students and they’re eager beavers having dreamt about becoming a nurse. Now I teach the Senior Practicum each summer.

right before the students launch into their careers. At the start of the practicum, nobody thinks they’ll ever be capable or competent enough, they don’t have enough clinical experience to do the job. By the end of that quarter, they see how all the dots connect and they fly! It’s incredibly rewarding to see this kind of student growth over four years.”

Currently, Rassilyer-Bomers is a part-time member of the CON faculty. She works to find clinical placements for nursing students in addition to teaching the Senior Practicum.

What keeps her at SU? “The people,” she says. “The reason I continue working at SU—and at Swedish—is of course the mission, vision and values, which I see as quite parallel. But it’s the people I work with, who have the passion to do right by caring for others, that compel me to stay. I work with really good people.”
**SCHOLARSHIP**

**PUBLICATIONS**

**BONNIE H. BOWIE, PHD, MBA, RN, FAAN**  
https://doi.org/10.1111/PHN.12834

**KATHERINE CAMACHO CARR, PHD, ARNP, CNM, FACNM**  

**TERRI CLARK, PHD, CNM, ARNP, FACNM**  

**JANIECE DESOCIO, PHD, RN, PMHNP-BC, FAAN**  

**JENNIFER FRICAS, PHD, MPH, RN**  

**DAISY S. GARCIA, PHD, MSN, RN**  

**ANITA JABLONSKI, PHD, RN, CNE**  

**LAUREN VALK LAWSON, DNP, RN**  
https://doi.org/10.1111/PHN.12834

**KELLY McBROOM, PHD, ARNP, CNM**  

**CARRIE WESTMORELAND MILLER, PHD, RN, CNE, CHSE, IBCLC**  

**ROBIN NARRUHN, PHD, RN**  

https://doi.org/10.3390/genealogy5010003


**KUHHE RO, DNP, FNP-BC**  


**DIANE FULLER SWITZER, DNP, ARNP, FNP-BC, ENP-BC, ENP-C, FAEN, FAANP**  

**ALIC SHOOK, PHD, RN**  

**MO-KYUNG SIN, PHD, RN**  


**DIANE FULLER SWITZER, DNP, ARNP, FNP-BC, ENP-BC, ENP-C, FAEN, FAANP**  

**COLLEEN WOOLSEY, PHD, ARNP**  

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The Board of Review (BOR) of the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME) has granted continued accreditation to the Seattle University, College of Nursing, Nurse-Midwifery, Doctor of Nursing Practice program for the maximum of ten years, expiring October 31, 2031.

The ACME BOR recognized Dr. Elizabeth Gabzdyl, Nurse-Midwifery Program Director, and the nurse-midwifery faculty for their work on this successful continued accreditation. They commended the quality of the comprehensive self-study provided and the work of SU and the College of Nursing for its exemplary work in seeking to create and provide an inclusive learning environment for its students.

The Nurse-Midwifery program began as a Master of Science in Nursing degree and transitioned to a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree in 2017. Graduates are eligible to sit for the American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB) certification exam. Nurse-Midwifery program courses are taught by accomplished and practicing professors. Since 2009, the Nurse-Midwifery program at SU has prepared 65 MSN and 79 DNP graduates, as well as six post-graduate certificate midwives all of whom provide critically needed care in the U.S. and around the world.

The Seattle University, College of Nursing, Nurse-Midwifery, Doctor of Nursing Practice program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME), 8403 Colesville Road, Suite 1550, Silver Spring, MD, 20910-6374. For information about accreditation, please contact ACME directly. Tel: (240) 485-1802, acme@acnm.org, www.midwife.org/acme
PRESENTATIONS

FACULTY

LISA ABEL, DNP, ARNP, WHNP-BC
Abel, A. (2021, February). Increasing access to cervical screening in homeless women [Presentation]. Faculty Research Lightning Talks: Anti-Racist Scholarship, Seattle University, Seattle, WA, Virtual.

ANJANETTE ALLARD, DNP, RN, CPN
Allard, A. (2021, April). Nurse and family perceptions of family-center care in phase one recovery [Poster]. Western Institutes of Nursing Virtual 2021 Conference, Portland, OR.

JENNIFER FRICAS, PHD, MPH, RN
Fricas, J. (2021, April-May). Teaching health students to see more than a single epistemology: Widening the gaze using Marshall’s Two-Eyed Seeing Framework [Presentation]. Comparative and International Education Society Annual Conference, Seattle, WA.

DAISY S. GARCIA, PHD, MSN, RN
Garcia, D.S. (2021, May). Pedagogical approach to teach promoting the health of populations and communities course (Enfoque Pedagógico para Enseñar el Curso: Promoviendo la Salud de Poblaciones y Comunidades) [Presentation]. Virtual Dialogues on Nursing Education Methodologies between Bolivian University of San Francisco Xavier of Chiquisquira, Sucre, and Seattle University College of Nursing Faculty, Virtual.

YUTING LIN, PHD, RN

JENNIFER NAVETTA, DNP, RN, CNE
Navetta, J., Cline, D., & Vezeau T. (2021, April). Enhancing knowledge of mentorship best practices: A QI project at Seattle University [Poster]. Western Institutes of Nursing Virtual 2021 Conference, Portland, OR.

KUMHEE RO, DNP, FNP-BC

ROYA S. SIN, PHD, RN

KRISTEN M. SWANSON, PHD, RN, FAAN


DIANE FULLER SWITZER, DNP, ARNP, FNP-BC, ENP-BC, ENP-C, FAEN, FAAN

Fuller Switzer, D. (2021, May). COVID-19 Pandemic: Challenges from front line providers in the field [Invited Guest Speaker]. SCAC Committee Nurse’s Week Speaker, Seattle University College of Nursing, Seattle, WA.


STUDENTS

ZHERYL BALDONADO, DNP ‘21
Baldonado, Z. (2021, April). Evaluating the workflow Process for acute care incident reports [Poster]. Western Institutes of Nursing Virtual 2021 Conference, Portland, OR.

SARAH VIVIAN MARTIN, DNP ‘21, AND CAROLINE JAQUISH, DNP ‘21

SARAH KELLY, DNP ‘21
Welch, S. (2021, April). Rapid response system program evaluation to address afferent limb [Poster]. Western Institutes of Nursing Virtual 2021 Conference, Portland, OR.

BOYON YUN, DNP ‘21
Yun, B., & Gilbert, A. (2021, April). Mentorship for advanced practice clinicians [Poster]. Western Institutes of Nursing Virtual 2021 Conference, Portland, OR.
STUDENT SCHOLARLY PROJECTS

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE

ADULT-GERONTOLOGY ACUTE CARE NURSE PRACTITIONER PROGRAM

Aden Fatuma, DNP ’21, Assessment of the Community Health Board Coalition Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Chair: Robin Narruhn, PhD, RN, Reader: Chantel Turner PA-C, MPAS.

Jaci Calvin, DNP ’21, Feasibility of Implementing a Systematic Referral System at Virginia Mason Medical Center for Heart Failure Patients to Participate in Cardiac Rehabilitation. Chair: Kumhee Ro, DNP, FNP-BC, Reader: Diane Fuller Sivitzi, DNP, ARNP, FNP-BC, ENP-BC, ENP-C, FAEN, FAANP.

Selam Estefanos, DNP ’21, The Importance of Cultural Considerations in the Administration of Palliative Care. Chair: Cheryl L. Cooke, PhD, DNP, PMHNP-BC, Reader: Robin Narruhn, PhD, RN.

Susan Henderson, DNP ’21, Practice Considerations for Stroke Care at Swedish Medical Center. Chair: Kumhee Ro, DNP, FNP-BC, Reader: Jeanne Lowe, PhD, RN.

Tatyana Klimok, DNP ’21, Nurses’ Perceived Barriers to Performing Bedside Shift Reports in Acute Care Settings. Chair: Cheryl L. Cooke, PhD, DNP, PMHNP-BC.

Emily LaRiviere, DNP ’21, and Alyssa Nguyen, DNP ’21, Examination of the Perceptions, Beliefs, and Conceptions Related to Rapid Bedside Implementation of Prone Therapy in the Setting of COVID-19 Pandemic. Chair: Benjamin J. Miller, PhD, ARNP, FNP-C, ACNPC, ENP-C, FAANP, Reader: Diane Fuller Sivitzi, DNP, ARNP, FNP-BC, ENP-BC, ENP-C, FAEN, FAANP.

Lily Seyoum, DNP ’21, A Retrospective Quality Improvement Study of Post Sepsis Management Program. Chair: Heather DePuydt, DNP, MSNEd, RN, RYT, Reader: Cheryl L. Cooke, PhD, DNP, PMHNP-BC.

Ashley Shishida, DNP ’21, Evaluation of an Acute Pancreatitis Treatment Pathway on Reducing Incidence of Sepsis. Chair: Diane Fuller Sivitzi, DNP, ARNP, FNP-BC, ENP-BC, ENP-C, FAEN, FAANP, Reader: Benjamin J. Miller, PhD, ARNP, FNP-C, ACNPC, ENP-C, FAANP.

Diana Spann, DNP ’21, Peripheral Intravenous Catheter Removal: A Reason to Change. Chair: Kumhee Ro, DNP, FNP-BC, Reader: Jeanne Lowe, PhD, RN.

Sarah Welch, DNP ’21, Implementation of a Proactive Rapid Response Nurse Rounding Protocol to Address Afferent Limb Failure in a Mature Rapid Response System. Chair: Bonnie H. Bowie, PhD, MBA, RN, FAAN, Reader: Todd Raye DNP, ARNP.

ADULT-GERONTOLOGY PRIMARY CARE NURSE PRACTITIONER PROGRAM

Andrew Bennett, DNP ’21, A Baseline Needs Assessment Prior to Implementing Pharmacogenomics Information into the EHR at Virginia Mason. Chair: Heather DePuydt, DNP, MSNEd, RN, RYT, Reader: Patrick J. M. Murphy, PhD.

Alisa Bieber, DNP ’21, Medicare Annual Wellness Visits: An Opportunity to Promote Seniors’ Health. Chair: Jennifer Fricas, PhD, MPH, RN, Reader: Yolanda Grandjean, DNP, RN.

Matthew Firth, DNP ’21, Fluid Management Education for Hemodialysis Nurses for Improvement in Patient Outcomes. Chair: Jennifer Fricas, PhD, MPH, RN, Reader: Robin Narruhn, PhD, RN.

Negin Kourrehpanaz, DNP ’21, and Shokouh Pardakhtim, DNP ’21, Barriers for Individuals with Prediabetes from Enrolling in the YMCAs Diabetes Prevention Program. Chairs: Gayle Robinson, PhD, RN and Jeanne Lowe PhD, RN, Reader: Julie Osgood, MS, DrPH.

Kevin Slingwijn, DNP ’21, Improving Infection Prevention Among Unlicensed Healthcare Workers: A Pilot Program. Chair: Michael Huggins, PhD, EdD, ARNP, FAANP, Reader: Heather Reynolds, MSW.

CERTIFIED NURSE-MIDWIFERY PROGRAM

Emily Bicknell, DNP ’21, Nitrous Oxide as Labor Analgesia: Utilization in a Seattle Hospital. Chair: Kelly McBroome, PhD, ARNP, CNM, Reader: Elizabeth M. Gabzdyl, DNP, CNM.

Ellen French, DNP ’21, Helping the Helpers: Assessing Support Needs and Resources Among Community Doulas. Chair: Kelly McBroome, PhD, ARNP, CNM.

Sara Hall, DNP ’21, Reducing Barriers to Care for Postpartum Health using Telehealth during COVID-19. Chair: Elizabeth M. Gabzdyl, DNP, CNM.

Rachel Hirsch, DNP ’21, Sexual Health Workshop for Adult Women. Chair: Kelly McBroome, PhD, ARNP, CNM.

Caroline Jaquish, DNP ’21, and Sarah Vivian Martin, DNP ’21, The Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative: A Pre- and Post-Implementation Study. Chair: Danuta M. Wojnar, PhD, RN, MED, IBCLC, FAAN, Reader: Patrick J. M. Murphy, PhD.

Ashton Lupton, DNP ’21, All Options: Developing and Implementing an MVA Protocol for Miscarriage Management. Chair: Lisa Abel, DNP, ARNP, WHNP-BC, Reader: Katherine Van Kessel, MD.

Natalie Van Houten, DNP ’21, Screen Where the People Are: Using Self-Collected Primary HPV Testing in Day Shelters to Increase Cervical Cancer Screening Rates in Homeless Women. Chair: Lisa Abel, DNP, ARNP, WHNP-BC.

FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER PROGRAM

Kate Adler, DNP ’21, Assessing Barriers to Barcode Medication Administration (BCMA) Compliance: A Quality Improvement Project. Chair: Jeanne Lowe, PhD, RN, Reader: Kumhee Ro, DNP, FNP-BC.

Melody Albana, DNP ’21, AG-ACNP Cert ’21, Program Evaluation of Provider Triage in the Urgent Care During the Covid-19 Pandemic. Chair: Diane Fuller Sivitzi, DNP, ARNP, FNP-BC, ENP-BC, ENP-C, FAEN, FAANP, Reader: Benjamin J. Miller, PhD, ARNP, FNP-C, ACNPC, ENP-C, FAANP.

Zehry Baldonado, DNP ’21, Evaluating the Workflow Process for Incident Reports for Department Managers: A Quality Improvement Project. Chair: Bonnie H. Bowie, PhD, MBA, RN, FAAN, Reader: Julie Idler, MSN, MBS, RNC-NIC.

Hailey Bobin Cole, DNP ’21, Impact of a Novel Application in Electrocardiogram Interpretation Confidence and Performance in Nurse Practitioner Students. Chair: Therry Epwaro, DNP, FNP-BC.

Jasmine Brar, DNP ’21, Understanding Barriers Patients Face in Completing Mammography Screening in Primary Care. Chair: Colleen Woolsey, PhD, ARNP.

Ju Cho, DNP ’21, Implementation of Palliative Care for Interprofessional Dialysis Team. Chair: Kumhee Ro, DNP, FNP-BC, Reader: Jeanne Lowe, PhD, RN.

RandalClaussen, DNP ’21, Barriers for Individuals with Prediabetes from Enrolling in the YMCAs Diabetes Prevention Program. Chairs: Gayle Robinson, PhD, RN, and Jeanne Lowe, PhD, RN, Reader: Julie Osgood, MS, DrPH.

JamieCline, DNP ’21, Advance Care Planning Communication Training. Chair: Daniel D. Cline, PhD, RN, ANP-BC, CEN, Reader: Steven J. Palazzo, PhD, MN, RN, CNE.

Grace Davis, DNP ’21, Effect of Supplemental Thiamine on Alcohol Withdrawal in a Detoxification Setting. Chair: Jennifer Fricas, PhD, MPH, RN.

AmberaDedic, DNP ’21, Teen Take Heart (TTH): A Virtual Learning Experience. Chair: Daniel D. Cline, PhD, RN, ANP-BC, CEN, Reader: Steven J. Palazzo, PhD, MN, RN, CNE.

OliviaDomini, DNP ’21, Screening for Adverse Childhood Experiences and Other Determinants of Health in School Based Health Centers: A Program Evaluation. Chair: Heather Depuydt, DNP, MSNEd, RN, RYT, Reader: Robin Narruhn PhD, RN.

AndreaEickelmann, DNP ’21, Anti-Weight Stigma Educational Simulation for Nurse Practitioner Students. Chair: Robin Narruhn, PhD, RN, Readers: Carrie Westmoreland Miller, PhD, RN, CNE, CHSE, IBCLC and Brianna Woodruff, MSN, FNP.

AnneMarie Fombu, DNP ’21, Program Evaluation of a Minority Nurse Mentorship Program. Chair: Robin Narruhn, PhD, RN, Reader: Richard Smith, BSN.

LemuelGitari, DNP ’21, Depressive Disorders and Substance Abuse Screening in Pediatric Primary Care using PHQ-A and CRAFFT Assessment Tools. Chair: Colleen Woolsey, PhD, ARNP, Reader: Beth Harvey, MD.

Continued on next page
Mikaela Guimaraes, DNP ‘21, Virtual Nurse Coaching & Chronic Disease. Chair: Colleen Woolsey, PhD, ARNP.

Samantha Herradura, DNP ‘21, Making It Stick: Policy Adherence using a Checklist for Transradial Band. Chair: Bonnie H. Bowie, PhD, MBA, RN, FAAN.

Jody Kline-Mchugh, DNP ‘21, Increasing Client Engagement in a Pediatric Clinic Using a Family Advisory Council A Quality Improvement Project. Chair: Gayle Robinson, PhD, MN, BSN, RN.

Robyn Klosiwsiecki, DNP ‘21, Implementation of Fall Prevention Strategies in a King County Hospital. A Quality Improvement Project. Chair: Bonnie H. Bowie, PhD, MBA, RN, FAAN.


Carolyn Mattson, DNP ‘21, Grounds for a New Normal: Integration of Telephrology in Rural Communities. Chair: Diane Fuller Switzer, DNP, ARNP, FNP-BC, ENP-BC, ENP-C, FAEN, FAANP, Reader: Benjamin J. Miller, PhD, ARNP, FNP-BC, ENP-BC, ENP-C, FAEN.

Tyler Mortensen, DNP ‘21, Care Staff Self-Efficacy and Resident Fall Rates in Long-Term Care. Chair and Reader: Michael Huggins, PhD, EdD, ARNP, Reader: Janiece DeSocio, PhD, RN, PMHNP-BC, FAAN.

Ellerey Nelson, DNP ‘21, A Provider Toolbox for Cardiovascular Disease Prevention in Women of Color in the Primary Care Setting. Chair: Lisa Abel, DNP, ARNP, WHNP-BC.

Alyssa Ochsner, DNP ‘21, Implementation of a H. pylori Information Packet at Swedish Gastroenterology to Improve Patient Care Outcomes. Chair: Bonnie H. Bowie, PhD, MBA, RN, FAAN, Readers: Elizabeth Mack, ARNP, FNP and Brianna Woodruff, ARNP, FNP.

Adrienne Oliveira, DNP ‘21, Medication Error Reduction Training at a Local Nursing Home. Chair: Lauren Valk Lawson, DNP, RN, Reader: Ani Babae, RN.

Atalaya Ombati, DNP ‘21, Addressing Health Needs of Women Experiencing Homelessness. Chair: Lauren Valk Lawson, DNP, RN, Reader: Melanie Neufeld, MSW.

Jarylin Reese, DP ‘21, A Quality Improvement Project: Reducing Patient “Assisted Falls” and Caregiver Injuries by Providing New Sit to Stand Equipment and Training. Chair: Jeanne Lowe, PhD, RN, Reader: Kumhee Ro, DNP, FNP-BC.

Kaylin Reeve, DNP ‘21, Implementation of a Transitional Care Pilot Program to Reduce Heart Failure Readmissions. Chair: Benjamin J. Miller, PhD, ARNP, FNP-BC, ACNPC, ENP-C, FAANP, Reader: Diane Fuller Switzer, DNP, ARNP, FNP-BC, ENP-BC, ENP-C, FAEN, FAANP.

Ellena Saechaa, DNP ‘21, Understanding Sepsis & Sepsis Outcomes. Chair: Jeanne Lowe, PhD, RN, Reader: Kumhee Ro, DNP, FNP-BC.

Sarah Schwaegler, DNP ‘21, Efficacy of An Adult Congenital Heart Disease Transition Care Program: A Program Evaluation. Chair: Therry Eparwa, DNP, FNP-BC, Reader: Jason Deen, MD.


Lindsey Smith, DNP ‘21, Understanding the Predictive Value of Leukocyte Esterase on Dipstick Urinalysis as an Indicator of Urinary Tract Infection. Chair: Bonnie H. Bowie, PhD, MHA, RN, FAAN.

Behrooz Soleimani, DNP ‘21, Catching up with HPV Immunization: An Educational Video for College Students. Chair: Colleen Woolsey, PhD, ARNP, Reader: Tara Hicks, ARNP.

Corissa Sutton, DNP ‘21, Pain Neuroscience Education at Seattle Housing Authority. Chair: Janiece DeSocio, PhD, RN, PMHNP-BC, FAAN.

Michelle Tran, DNP ‘21, with Jibrarn Ahmed, DNP ‘21, and Jorea Shirley, DNP ‘21, Understanding our Strengths, Elevating our Priorities: Community Health Board Coalition. Chair: Robin Narruhn, PhD, RN, Reader: Cheryl Cooke, PhD, DNP, PMHNP-BC.

Manaye Utaile, DNP ‘21, Aiding Screening, Diagnosis, and Management of Prediabetes Among High-Risk Medicare Patients in a Primary Care Setting. Chair: Lisa Abel DNP, ARNP, WHNP-BC, Reader: Joycelyn Thomas, DNP, ARNP-BC.


PSYCHIATRIC MENTAL HEALTH NURSE PRACTITIONER PROGRAM

Jibrarn Ahmed, DNP ‘21, and Jorea Shirley, DNP ‘21, with Michelle Tran, DNP ‘21, Understanding Our Strengths, Elevating Our Priorities: Community Health Board Coalition. Chair: Robin Narruhn, PhD, RN, Reader: Cheryl L. Cooke, PhD, DNP, PMHNP-BC.

April Carillo, DNP ‘21, Identifying Hispanic Parents’ Perceptions of their Child’s Health Services: A Program Evaluation to Support Hispanic Youth. Chair: Janiece DeSocio, PhD, RN, PMHNP-BC, FAAN, Reader: Cheryl L. Cooke, PhD, DNP, PMHNP-BC.

Sakisha Delves, DNP ‘21, An Exploration of a Gap in Medication Education for Deaf Clients. Chair: Cheryl L. Cooke, PhD, DNP, PMHNP-BC.

Jillian Douglas, DNP ‘21, The Impact of Mental Health Policy on People with Severe Mental Illness. Chair: Lauren Valk Lawon, DNP, RN.

Brandon Dukovic, DNP ‘21, Implementing Eating Disorder Screening and Early Intervention in a Primary Care Clinic. Chair: Hyun Jung Kim, PhD, PMHNP-BC.

Ioana Hall, DNP ‘21, A Quality Improvement Project: Implementing a Homelessness Vulnerability Screening Tool for Young Adults in the Inpatient Behavioral Health Setting. Chair: Janiece DeSocio, PhD, RN, PMHNP-BC, FAAN.

John Hinrichs, DNP ‘21, Building Resilience: Piloting a Mindful Self-Compassion and Stress Management Program for Street-Involved Youth. Chair: Janiece DeSocio, PhD, RN, PMHNP-BC, FAAN, Reader: Cheryl L. Cooke, PhD, DNP, PMHNP-BC.

Emma Nauman, DNP ‘21, Barriers to Effective Implementation of Contingency Management in Outpatient Treatment of Methamphetamine. Chair: Jonnae Tillman, DNP, PMHNP-BC, Reader: Heather DePuydt, DNP, MSN, RN, RYT.

Shelby Scofield, DNP ‘21, Diabetes Education for Psychiatric Crisis Workers. Chair: Hyun Jung Kim, PhD, PMHNP-BC, Reader: Janiece DeSocio, PhD, RN, PMHNP-BC, FAAN.

Kayla Shull, DNP ‘21, Sharing Our Burden: Addressing Ward Care Visits Through Patient Engagement. Chair: Jeanne Lowe, PhD, RN.

Shannon Sommer, DNP ‘21, Increasing Certified Nurse Midwife Knowledge and Confidence in Screening for Perinatal Eating Disorders through an Online Training. Chair: Jonnae Tillman, DNP, PMHNP-BC.

HEALTH SYSTEMS LEADER POST-MASTERS DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE PROGRAM

Anjanette Allard, DNP ‘21, Analyzing Nurse and Family Perceptions of Family-Centered Care in Phase I Recovery. Chair: Jeanne Lowe, PhD, RN, Reader: Pam Christensen, RN, ARNP-CS, ACCNS-P, RN-BC.

Suzan Knowles, DNP ‘21, Simulation Use in Pre-licensure Nursing Programs Assuring Excellence in New Nurse Competence and Confidence. Chair: Carrie Westmoreland Miller, PhD, RN, CNE, CHSE, IBCLC, Reader: Kristen M. Swanson, PhD, RN, FAAN.

Jaime Navetta, DNP ‘21, Enhancing Knowledge of Mentorship Best Practices: A DNP QI Project. Chair: Daniel Cline, PhD, RN, ANP-BC, CEN, Reader: Toni Vezeau, PhD, RN-C.

Boyun Yun, DNP ‘21, A Gap Analysis, Development, and Evaluation of an Advanced Practice Clinician Mentorship Program. Chair: Kristen M. Swanson, PhD, RN, FAAN, Reader: Adam Gilbert, PA-C.
The President’s Award is given to the graduate who has maintained the highest level of scholarship throughout four years of study at Seattle University.

Lindsey Bui completed her BSN degree with a minor in psychology in June 2021. She excelled in her scholastic skills maintaining a stellar grade point average of 4.0. Her academic excellence resulted in a position on the President’s and Dean’s Lists for outstanding achievement every quarter. In 2020, she was inducted as a member of the Alpha Sigma Nu Jesuit Honors Society.

One of Bui’s nursing advisors, Dr. Jaime Navetta, wrote, “Lindsey is a warm, friendly, empathetic person and an excellent role model for other students. She modeled the SU mission in the way she provides holistic care, engages in therapeutic communication, promotes the importance of social justice in the health care field, and maintains thoughtful curiosity.”

While a student at SU, Bui served as a Redhawk Ambassador providing campus tours and assistance to prospective students and their families. As a tutor for SU’s Learning Assistance Programs, she became an informal mentor to first year nursing students whom she tutored in a variety of nursing courses.

She said her favorite aspect of the BSN program was the abundance of peer and faculty support. While looking at various nursing schools, I saw myself in an environment that pushed me toward success and encouraged teamwork and mutual understanding between classmates. Above all, SU’s nursing program encourages its students to self-reflect, seek help from others, communicate, and understand that we don’t have to be perfect. I appreciate that SU listens to the voices of its students, demonstrating its holistic perspective embraced through a growth mindset throughout.”

Bui described some of her favorite memories from SU, which are centered around time spent participating in cultural clubs. She said “the Vietnamese Student Association and the United Filipino Club were two communities that welcomed me with open arms and allowed me to re-identify with myself as an Asian person of color. I’m grateful that these communities allowed me to continue my passions, learn about my culture and others, and find a home of true acceptance.”

“My favorite time of the school year was what I call ‘cultural club season,’” said Bui. “This is when the clubs hold their annual shows highlighting the club’s culture through skits, dances, food, music, decorations….my favorite memories have been staying up late to set up for the shows, doing our last full run-throughs, then waking up at 7 a.m. the next day to get ready for the main event. It was during these late nights that I created the strong bonds I have today.”

After graduating, Bui began a nurse residency on a medical-surgical/oncology unit at the University of Washington Medical Center. “I’m excited to begin my professional career as a nurse and continue to learn in the field from my fellow nurses, doctors, medical staff and patients,” she said. In future, she plans to pursue her passion for mentoring and helping others as a preceptor and clinical instructor for the next generation of nursing students.

“My time at SU has pushed me to be a person that I didn’t imagine I could be.”

She models the SU mission in the way she provides holistic care, engages in therapeutic communication, promotes the importance of social justice in the health care field, and maintains thoughtful curiosity.”
**EXTERNAL AWARDS**

**NEW**
Robin Narruhn, PhD, MN, RN, “Health Equity Fund,” Pacific Hospital and Preservation and Development Authority, June 1, 2020-June 1, 2021, $150,000.
Robin Narruhn, PhD, MN, RN, and Dr. Shirlee Tan, “Box Fan Grant,” Community Health Board Coalition, Public Health Seattle King County, September 2020-June 2021, $9,000.

**CONTINUING**
Bonnie H. Bowie, PhD, MBA, RN, FAAN and Kristen M. Swanson, PhD, RN, FAAN, “International Community Health Services Nurse Practitioner Residency Academic Partnership,” International Community Health Services (ICHS), July 1, 2019-June 30, 2023, $69,200.
Mary Field, DNP, MBA, RN, CPHON (BSN ’07, DNP ’20), “A Longitudinal Cross-Sectional Evaluation of Nursing Satisfaction with the Electronic Medical Record,” Seattle Children’s Hospital, 2019-2022, $9,923.
Jean Lowe, PhD, RN and Kristen M. Swanson, PhD, RN, FAAN, “SeaMar Community Health Services Nurse Practitioner Residency Academic Partnership,” SeaMar Community Health Services, July 1, 2019-June 30, 2023, $69,200.
Carrie Westmoreland Miller, PhD, RN, CHSR, CNE, IBLCC, “Hearst OSCE Program,” The Hearst Foundation, January 1, 2016-December 31, 2020, $150,000.
Mo-Kyung Sin, PhD, RN, “Parkinson’s Disease Nursing Student Ambassador Program,” The Parkinson’s Foundation Nurse Faculty Award, June 15, 2020-June 29, 2021, $9,863.
Kristen M. Swanson, PhD, RN, FAAN, “The Robert and Jean Reid Family Foundation Endowed Scholarship,” The Robert and Jean Reid Family Foundation, October 2, 2019-September 30, 2020, $110,000.

**INTERNAL AWARDS**

**NEW**
Kumhee Ro, DNP, FNP-BC, “Provost’s Pilot Initiative on Anti-Racist Education: Curriculum Development Grant,” Seattle University, 2021-2022, $3,000.
Alic Shook, PhD, RN, “Using Youth-Engaged methods to Develop a Technology-Based Sexual Education Intervention for Transgender and Gender-Expansive Youth,” Seattle University College of Nursing Seed Grant, April 2021-February 2022, $7,500.
Mo-Kyung Sin, PhD, RN, “Alzheimer Disease & Parkinson Disease Nursing Student Ambassador Program,” Seattle University College of Nursing Seed Grant, April 1, 2021-March 31, 2022, $7,250.

**CONTINUING**
Lisa Abel, DNP, MSN, ARNP, WHNP-BC, “Increasing Access to Cervical Cancer Screening for Women Affected by Homelessness through Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Self-Collection,” Seattle University College of Nursing Seed Grant, January 2020-December 2021, $6,710.

**FELLOWSHIPS**

**EXTERNAL**
DoQuyen Huynh, DNP, FNP, ARNP, FAAN, Fellow, American Academy of Nursing, 2021.
Gayle Robinson, PhD, RN, Fellow, John Hopkins University SOURCE Service-Learning Academy, 2021-2022.

**INTERNAL**
Jennifer Fricas, PhD, MPH, RN, “Pandemic, Protests, and Perseverance: Learning from the Experiences of BIPOC Nursing Students through Participatory Photography,” Seattle University Summer Faculty Fellowship, June-September 2021, $7,100.
Kumhee Ro, DNP, FNP-BC, Seattle University Initiative for Ethics and Transformational Technology Fellowship, 2020-2021, $3,000.
Alic Shook, PhD, RN, “Stigma Power and Sickle Cell Disease,” Seattle University Summer Faculty Fellowship, June-September 2021.

**SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**

**FACULTY**
Colleen Woolsey, PhD, ARNP, Nurse Educator Development Academy Scholar, Sigma Theta Tau International, April 2021.

**NEW**
Gabrielle Worden, DNP ‘21, November 2020
Kayla Shull, DNP ‘21, August 2020
Shelby Scofield, DNP ‘21, November 2020
Jibran Ahmed, DNP ‘21, November 2020
Carolyn Mattson, DNP ‘21, August 2020
Atalaya Ombati, DNP ‘21, August 2020
Jibran Ahmed, DNP ‘21, November 2020
Melody Albano, DNP ‘21, November 2020

**CONTINUING**

**EXTENSION**
Jennifer Fricas, PhD, MP, RN, “Stigma Power and Sickle Cell Disease,” Seattle University Summer Faculty Fellowship, June-September 2021.

**CONTINUING**

Seven SU doctoral students received UW Premera Rural Nursing Health Initiative (RNHI) grants during the 2020-2021 academic year. Part of the mission of the RNHI is to enhance clinical placements for advanced registered nurse practitioner (ARNP) students to ensure a robust pipeline and network of primary care ARNPs to improve health outcomes and access in rural Washington communities. This highly competitive grant program provides a $10,000 stipend to defray living expenses during a clinical rotation in a rural setting for one quarter.
ELLEN FRENCH AND NATALIE VAN HOUTEN

2021 RIDGWAY SCHOLARS

This endowed scholarship aims to kindle and fuel leadership development by encouraging student development in community outreach, service, and civic efforts. The 2021 recipients were both doctoral students in the Certified Nurse-Midwifery (CNM) program while completing their scholarship projects.

ELLEN FRENCH, DNP ‘21

Project: Helping the Helpers: Assessing Support Needs and Strengths Among Community Doulas

“I have met an amazing cohort of likeminded midwives who see our profession as a way to make positive change in the world through acts of service. I have had wonderfully supportive and challenging clinical experiences that have helped me grow spiritually in addition to my academic and clinical skills. I have been able to pursue an area and method of research that is tied to my personal mission and that I see as meaningful. And I will absolutely carry the lessons and community that I have gained throughout this experience for the rest of my life.”

NATALIE VAN HOUTEN, DNP ‘21

Project: Screen Where the People Are: Using Self-Collected Primary HPV Testing in Day Shelters to Increase Cervical Cancer Screening Rates in Homeless Women

“I believe that nursing and midwifery is an integral part of working toward a more just world. It is a holistic model of care that extends beyond the clinic or hospital visit and inquiries about our patients’ entire wellbeing. Questions of social support, affordable housing, and paid family and sick leave all impact a person’s health and wellness and therefore are of great importance in nursing and midwifery care. This broad definition of health care is what drives me to nursing and midwifery. I want to both advocate for my patients and encourage them to advocate for themselves to work toward these goals. I want my patients to feel in control of their bodies and circumstances and empowered in their care.”

FUNDING – Scholarship Recipients

Continued from page 11

STUDENTS

Fortun Ashoor, BSN ’21, Mary Mahoney Professional Nursing Organization Scholarship, 2021.
Masuma Baset, DNP ’24, Graduate Award, King County Nurses Association, 2021.
Sarah Bernhards, DNP ’23, National Health Service Corps Scholarship, Health Resources and Services Administration, 2020.
Cordelia Cochran, DNP ’23, Valerie Weiss Award, King County Nurses Association, 2021.
Kayla Christine Salle de Leon, BSN ’22, Rosemary Ford Future of Oncology Nursing Scholarship, Seattle Cancer Care Alliance, 2021.
Ellen French, DNP ’21, Dr. Eileen Ridgway Endowed Nursing Scholarship, Seattle University, 2020-2021.
Brigette Gardea, BSN ’22, Basic Award, King County Nurses Association, 2021.
Taylor Hentges, DNP ’23, National Health Service Corps Scholarship, Health Resources and Services Administration, 2020.
Sarah McClean, BSN ’21, Sue Naef Scholarship, Seattle University, 2020-2021.
Adunya Mohamed, BSN ’22, Mary Mahoney Professional Nursing Organization Scholarship, 2021.
Hannah Morrison, DNP ’24, Graduate Award, King County Nurses Association, 2021.
Amanda Osei, DNP ’22, 2020-2021, Keith and Kathleen Hallman Endowed Scholarship, Harrison Medical Center.
Amber Rodriguez-Munoz, BSN ’22, Basic Award, King County Nurses Association, 2021.
Shaina Ann Tupsa Santonil, DNP ’23, the Loretta Ford Centennial Scholarship, American Association of Nurse Practitioners, 2021.
Jessica Schuster, DNP ’23 Graduate Award, King County Nurses Association, 2021.
Bedriya Seid, BSN ’22, Mary Mahoney Professional Nursing Organization Scholarship, 2021.
Vanessa Soria, BSN ’23, 2020-2021, Keith and Kathleen Hallman Endowed Scholarship, Harrison Medical Center.
Ezinne Ufomadu, DNP ’24, Mary Mahoney Professional Nursing Organization Scholarship, 2021
Natalie Van Houten, DNP ’21, Dr. Eileen Ridgway Endowed Nursing Scholarship, Seattle University, 2020-2021.
Gabe Wortman, DNP ’24, National Health Service Corps Scholarship, Health Resources and Services Administration, 2020.
Michelle Yee, BSN ’21, Sue Naef Scholarship, Seattle University, 2020-2021.
IMAN YUNIS AND JEREMY BANG AWARDED LOIS PRICE SPRATLEN FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

The Lois Price Spratlen Foundation Scholarship program supports graduate students pursuing a career in advanced practice psychiatric nursing. Iman Yunis and Jeremy Bang are both pursing their DNP in the Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) program at SU.

Iman Yunis, DNP ’22, said her passion for advanced psychiatric nursing was sparked after leading a community-based participatory research study investigating the perceptions of mental health and barriers to accessing mental health services among the Somali community in King County, WA. As an advanced psychiatric nursing leader, she hopes to break the barriers of social stigma, limited mental health awareness, and accessibility so that underserved populations can access and receive equitable mental health care. She believes that the best way to advance the goals and growth of the communities she works with must be done through fostering collaboration, providing support, and empowerment.

Jeremy Bang, DNP ’22, said he said he chose to pursue his degree at SU, “because of its mission of educating the whole person and preparing leaders for a just and humane world. The holistic focus and nursing philosophy of care are what drew me to the PMHNP program itself.” He is currently embedded as a nurse in a permanent supportive housing environment that serves individuals who have a diagnosed mental health or substance use disorder and have been previously chronically unhoused. He said it is his goal to use his life experience to connect with and better understand future clients. He is particularly passionate about supporting men’s socio-emotional health.

SHAINA ANN TUPAS SANTONIL RECEIVES LORETTA FORD CENTENNIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Shaina Ann Tupas Santonil, DNP ’23, is among five awardees chosen to receive the Loretta Ford Centennial Scholarship from the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP). This one-time national scholarship, established by the AANP in honor of Dr. Ford’s 100th birthday, was created to inspire the next generation of Nurse Practitioners.
LEADERSHIP APPOINTMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Toni Malaspino. Elected Secretary/Treasurer, Seattle University Staff Council, 2020-2021.


Kumhee Ro, DNP, FNP-BC, Vice President, ARNPs United of Washington State, 2021-present.

Kumhee Ro, DNP, FNP-BC, Member, Washington State Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission Critical Gaps in Nursing Education Workgroup.

Kumhee Ro, DNP, FNP-BC, Steering Committee, Washington Center for Nursing Pilot Diversity Mentorship Program.

Kristen M. Swanson, PhD, RN, FAAN, Consultant, Adoption of the Swanson Caring Theory as Nursing Practice Model, MultiCare, Tacoma, WA, 2021.


AWARDS

FACULTY

Terrri Clark, PhD, CNM, ARNP, RN, FACNM, Distinguished Alumni Award, Yale School of Nursing Alumni Association, 2021.

Heather Depuydt, DNP, MSNEd, RN, RYT, Most Inspirational Faculty Award, College of Nursing, August 2021.

JaHun Kim, PhD, RN, Scholarly Writing Award from the Journal of School Nursing for “Cyberbullying and Victimization and Youth Suicide Risk: The Buffering Effects of School Connectedness,” June 2021.

Jaime Navetta, DNP, RN, CNE, Most Inspirational Faculty Award, Seattle University College of Nursing, June and August 2021.
Gayle Robinson, PhD, RN, Community Health Excellence Award, NW Asian Weekly Foundation, February 2021.

Kristen M. Swanson, PhD, RN, FAAN, Top 75 Alumni Luminary Award, University of Rhode Island College of Nursing, 2021.


Toni M. Vezeau, PhD, RNC, IBCLC, Most Inspirational Faculty Award, Seattle University College of Nursing, June 2021.

STUDENTS
Killian Abshire, BS DIUS ’21, Academic Achievement Award, Seattle University College of Nursing, August 2021.

Sydney Albriktsen, BS DIUS ’21, Most Improved Award, Seattle University College of Nursing, August 2021.

Lindsey Bui, BSN ’21, President’s Award, Seattle University, June 2021.

Caroline Chmielewski-Anders, BSN ’21, The Spirit of Nursing Award, Seattle University College of Nursing, June 2021.

Ellen French, DNP ’21, JoAnn McFadden Graduate Student Award, Seattle University College of Nursing, June 2021.

Keetra Kartes, BSN ’21, Nursing Service Award, Seattle University College of Nursing, June 2021.

Sarah McClean, BSN ’21, Sister Mary Ruth Niehoff Award, Seattle University College of Nursing, June 2021.

Adrian Nava, BSN ’21, Sister Mary Ruth Niehoff Award and The Spirit of Nursing Award, Seattle University College of Nursing, August 2021.

Felicity Rizzo, BS DIUS ’21, Cohort Leadership and Service Award, Seattle University College of Nursing, August 2021.

Serena Santos, BSN ’21, Nursing Service Award, Seattle University College of Nursing, August 2021.

Sydney Stafford, BSN ’21, Provost’s Award, Seattle University, June 2021.

ALPHA SIGMA NU JESUIT HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTEES
Viktoria Buina, BS DIUS ’24
Lauren Frizzell, BSN ’22
Nicole Gavin, BSN ’22
Diana Katynskiy, BSN ’22
Helen Kim, BSN ’21
Brenda Mata-Diaz, BSN ’24

Kevin Respicio, BSN ’24
Nicole Robbins, BSN ’22
Samantha Taber, BSN ’21
Ashlee Nicole Viosca, BSN ’21
Elizabeth Woods, BSN ’22

SIGMA THETA TAU-ALPHA SIGMA CHAPTER INDUCTEES
Sahra Adan
Margaret Anne Arnold
Diane Elizabeth Beary
Devaswa Bhagawati
Caroline Magda Chmielewski-Anders
Sarah Rose Christensen
Emily Dao
Aimee Lauren D’Avignon
Anna Mee-Joo Freyfogle
Katie Coffin From
Sabrina R Galindo
Yehmyung Go
Mckenzie N Golden
Laura Charlene Hall
Michelle C Heiner
Sydney Melin Hutton
Dang Minh Le
Wilfred Glenn Levasseur
Rachel Marlow Mackriell
Kylie Malstrom
Sara Ann Martin-Washo
David James Misslbeck
Mylee Weston Monks
Jocelin Eulalia Black Olin
Isla Sage Oliver
Myriam Pierre
Sadie Paloma Sherman Pile
Christina Victoria Pynda
Ethan Raether
Justine Rocheleau
Mark Samuel
Jennifer Helen Sargent
Ariana Ramos Squires-Loganathan
Samantha Jane Taber
Elaiza Marie Tanagon Mercado
Rachel Valenzuela-Ours
Eirin Caroline Waade
Kelly Ann Walton
Melissa Jean Weidner
Simon Adriane Ellis knows the health care challenges faced by members of the LGBTQ+ community who wish to start a family. A Certified Nurse Midwife, Ellis is transgender and non-binary using he/they pronouns, and a parent. He is passionate about the need for clinically competent and culturally proficient care for transgender and gender non-conforming patients and for health care environments that welcome people of all gender identities. He advocated for change as a student in Seattle University’s Certified Nurse Midwifery (CNM) program, producing award-winning original research on the Pregnancy and Childbirth Experiences of Trans, Non-Binary and Male Individuals. Since graduating, Ellis has authored numerous peer-reviewed journal articles, contributed to medical books and delivered many presentations and trainings focused on creating a more just health care environment.

“Pregnancy is a very vulnerable experience for everyone,” he says, “even more so for trans and non-binary people. There’s nothing scarier than bringing a child into the world without knowing if people will accept your legitimacy as a parent.”

Homophobia and transphobia cause disparities in sexual and mental health care received by members of the LGBTQ+ community. There are lower rates of screening for cervical cancer, for example, because patients are hesitant to see a caregiver who doesn’t understand them and may mistreat or deny them care. Misinformation about the sexual and reproductive health of LGBTQ+ people is another problem.

“Most information related to pregnancy and birth is still extremely gendered,” Ellis explains. “We lack data on pregnancy in trans and non-binary people because there are only a few small studies.”

Research Ellis undertook together with Associate Professor Maria Pettinato, PhD, RN and Professor Danuta Wojnar, PhD, RN, FAAN, while a nursing student at SU, which was published in the Journal of Midwifery and Women’s Health, revealed two primary findings. First, that trans and non-binary parents experience profound loneliness throughout the entire gestational process from preconception to early parenting. This is largely due to difficulty finding others who are going through the same experience. Second, that preconception is the period of greatest distress and least engagement in medical care for trans and non-binary people. Fear of poor treatment if they share with a caregiver their desire to become pregnant is a driving factor; and one that has proven a reality.

“After completing this research, I began advocating for caregivers to ask all patients during routine preventative visits if they plan to start or add to their existing family,” Ellis says. “If the patient’s reply is yes, an open follow-up question would be appropriate like, ‘how do you see that happening?’ or ‘what’s your vision for that?’ It’s important for the caregiver to make it clear they will not judge the patient’s response.”

He continues, “We need to normalize that parenting is an experience some humans want, and other humans don’t. And caregivers should not assume, based on any of a person’s characteristics, whether they would want that experience. Further, we need to create space in the examination room and in our hearts for the answers that patients of any gender identity give.”

Recipient of American College of Nurse-Midwives Excellence in Leadership and Innovation Award, Forwards Social Justice in Midwifery and Patient Care for LGBTQ+ Community

SIMON ADRIANE ELLIS, ’12, CNM, ARNP

Continued on next page
Ellis is creating this space as a nurse midwife at Quilted Health, a private practice championing a new model of midwifery-led collaborative care. “Quilted is focused on long-term strategy shift,” he explains. “We provide equitable access to compassionate, evidence-based, whole-person pregnancy care focused on meeting the needs of each individual client, particularly those who have historically been underserved. Our continuum of care begins when a patient thinks they are pregnant and continues through one year postpartum—the “bookend” periods in pregnancy that are often neglected. We are also working toward an innovative billing system based on patient outcomes rather than fee for service.”

Ellis is launching Quilted Health’s new Renton location together with a peer from his nursing school cohort, Laura MacPherson, MSN ’12.

“Laura is one of the few midwives of color in the area, and I’m one of the few trans or non-binary midwives” he says. “We’re learning how to hire for equity and to really put those values into practice in a way we rarely see in our field. Laura and I are in a dream position to truly build what we want to see for our patients and ourselves in a clinic that has a lot of support and structure. It’s really exciting.” Support for the birthing person is another high priority at Quilted Health. “We make doula care accessible for all our patients,” Ellis adds. “It’s one of the inputs we focus on because research tells us the presence of continuous birth support from a doula reduces the risk of interventions during labor. The doula works as part of a team that includes the patient and their support people, a midwife and our nurses. If needed, we’ll add our OB colleagues to the team.”

“Support is even more important for patients from communities that have been poorly served by the medical system and who face disparate outcomes,” he continues. “Having someone you know and trust at your side to help you navigate health care is life-saving. At Quilted, we’re adamant that labor support is a non-negotiable right.”

Ellis experienced a similar kind of life-changing support at SU while working his way through the MSN-CNM program. He was grateful for this, as the reception he’d received from other universities had been less than welcoming. An educator on one interview panel told Ellis that due to his gender identity, patients wouldn’t want to receive care from him and therefore graduating from the CNM program may not be possible.

“It was very upsetting,” Ellis recalls. “I’d been so excited. I felt this was my path, and the implication that my motivations were questionable was concerning to me. But it was different at SU. The university is committed to social justice, and I think the nursing faculty on my interview panel felt my presence in this field could be important for human rights and there was an openness to that possibility.”

Once accepted into SU’s program, Kelly McBroom, PhD, ARNP, CNM became Ellis’s mentor. “Kelly is still my mentor today and my fiercest advocate within the profession,” he says. “She made sure doors were open to me while I was a student, so I’d have a chance. She ensured that I had clinical positions and mentored me as my preceptor and career coach. She made it clear to me and to others that I belonged.”

Ellis continues to advocate for social justice for his patients and for other trans and non-binary people in the midwifery profession. Just recently, he learned that an initiative he worked on for 10 years to neutralize language in the Midwifery Scope of Practice put forth by the American College of Nurse-Midwives, a national professional association, had achieved its goal. The changes he and a group of catalyst colleagues recommended, such as replacing the word “woman” with “individuals” in the Scope of Practice and adding a statement that midwives care for people of all gender identities, had been approved. The new language is not yet available to the public.

“In medicine we say everything takes 10 years from bench to bedside,” Ellis says, “meaning if we learn something through laboratory research, it usually takes 10 years for the findings to be fully implemented. It appears we’re on the same timeline for implementing social justice within the health care system. But there’s movement.”
Gayle Robinson, PhD, RN was among 22 individuals and several organizations honored by the NW Asian Weekly Foundation in 2021 for their contributions to the health of the community. “Dr. Robinson is an inspiring educator, esteemed colleague, and revered community leader with a commitment to empowering others. We are so grateful for her clear vision, community focus and deep dedication to the formation of our students as the next generation of health care leaders,” said Dean Swanson.

Dr. Robinson is an assistant professor who joined the SU College of Nursing faculty in 2015. She took some time out to share with us about her beginnings, how she came to become a nurse educator and a glimpse at her lifetime of service to the community.

**WHAT DREW YOU TO YOUR CURRENT POSITION AT SU?**
What drew me to be an assistant professor at SU, is the focus on teaching and being a part of a university program that had social justice threaded across departmental curriculums.

**WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO PURSUE A CAREER AS A NURSE AND AS A NURSE EDUCATOR?**
The short story is that my beginning journey in nursing evolved out of a need to care for a young family. However, I knew I wanted to be in health care and thought that I would have the chance to care for the adults who took care of me when I was growing up (my grandmother, uncles, aunts, and my parents).

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF TEACHING AND MENTORING SU NURSING STUDENTS?**
My favorite part of teaching and mentoring SU nursing students is to watch students be excited about what they are learning. I love seeing the expressions on their faces when they have those “Aha! moments.” I hope with the mentoring that I convey that we both have ideas, aspirations, and experiences to share. I hope that I am conveying that in the relationship, we are learning from each other.

**YOU RECEIVED A COMMUNITY HEALTH EXCELLENCE AWARD FROM THE NW ASIAN WEEKLY FOUNDATION IN 2021. WOULD YOU SHARE A LITTLE ABOUT YOUR WORK IN THE COMMUNITY?**
I was nominated for this award, and I am grateful to the NW Asian Weekly Foundation and the work of Assunta Ng, that I was selected to be among the honorees for the community health excellence award. The recognition was related to community service work that many of us are doing, because of the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic in our communities and our history of community service. In my volunteer work with Mary Mahoney Professional Nursing Organization (MMPNO), I had the opportunity to work with The Center for Multicultural Health and do a workshop about PPE for community health workers. In a nurse consulting role, I had the opportunity to work with Sister’s in Common, a behavioral health agency and do some wellness checks with individuals who had been exposed to COVID-19 to offer support during times of home isolation or quarantine.

In my role as a nurse educator in the College of Nursing I get to teach and demonstrate use of PPE in the different settings they will be working in to break the cycle of infection transmission. I had the opportunity to help distribute surgical mask and cloth mask to families in MMPNO that were multigenerational as a result of the work that occurs with Sister in Common. I have been involved in community work here in Seattle before my children were in preschool and they are adults now in their early 30’s. So, I think my story would take more time than I can summarize for this session, and I have still more work to do and more learning to do.

**WHO INFLUENCED YOU MOST IN LIFE, OR SOMEONE YOU CONSIDER A ROLE MODEL?**
I have many role models, yet I would answer the question of who has influenced me most in life is my grand-

Continued on next page
mother, (my father’s mother), and my oldest sister. Both of whom are deceased, yet I learned so much from watching them work, and they seem to be in the right place at the right time when I needed them. I am one of eight children that were in our family, raised in a small town in Mississippi. I am blessed that I felt I was well loved, protected, and cared for.

IS THERE ANY ADVICE YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOUR STUDENTS AS THEY PREPARE FOR THEIR CAREERS IN NURSING?

I would continue to share with my students that they are entering a health care field where they are needed. I would ask that they hold on to the trust that some will build with the individuals and families that they work with in a variety of settings. Be the best at what they choose to study, provide the best care they can give in the specialty of their training. Show people that you care about them. Set their standards of care on the high bar, and their tolerance for poor health outcomes for marginalized communities low. I would repeat and wrap it up with they are needed.

Recipient of 2021 NP State Award for Excellence, Inducted as Fellow of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners

Diane K. Switzer, DNP, ARNP, FAEN, FAANP, is an assistant clinical professor, who joined SU’s faculty in 2014. She teaches graduate nursing students in the Family Primary Care Nurse Practitioner (FNP) and Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (AG-ACNP) tracks.

As a Fellow of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (FAANP), Switzer joins a group of leaders whose scholarly and forward-thinking contributions have led to meaningful improvements to health care and the nurse practitioner role. The association also awarded her the NP State Award for Excellence, which is given to one individual NP in each state who has demonstrated excellence in clinical practice.

Switzer said, “I have always had a passion for teaching—as a critical care RN, I developed Inservice Education offerings for my unit and I was the Inservice Educator at LBJ Medical Center, American Samoa… My dream of developing an Emergency Nurse Practitioner (ENP) program brought me to Seattle University and the opportunity to work with Dr. Benjamin Miller in developing the AG-ACNP curriculum, incorporating emergency content, simulations, and Point of Care Ultrasound (POCUS) workshops into the curriculum.”

Switzer, who has practiced emergency care at a Level One Trauma Center for 20 years, is a longtime member of the Health and Human Services (HHS) National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) Trauma Critical Care Team (TCCT), a team specialized in providing critical operative (surgical) emergency care to help people in the wake of disaster or emergencies. As part of this team, she was deployed to Puerto Rico to help care for victims of Hurricane Maria in 2017 and sent to Haiti following the earthquake in 2010 where she helped treat numerous injuries and assist with surgeries. In 2020, she was deployed for COVID medical missions to Georgia to care for the quarantined cruise ship passengers and to El Paso, Texas where she ran a COVID ICU Unit.

“Dr. Switzer is a true servant leader in our midst. So many around the world have benefited from her compassion and commitment. We have so much to learn from her,” said Dean Swanson.
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