

# ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Summer 2024

## Welcome

Dear Alumni,

We hope that you are enjoying some much needed rest and relaxation. As nurses we are innovators and collaborators, and for future newsletters we will strive to inform you of the significant and interesting activities involving our alumni, students, and faculty.

On behalf of the School of Nursing Alumni Board, I am excited to share updates on what the Dean and the board members have done over the past year. Since the newsletter has been published, we have had the opportunity to focus on our alumni members, sharing stories of accomplishments and professional development and creating a new community for our alumni members.

As a result, we have welcomed new members to the Alumni Board and worked closely with the University Alumni Association to align and promote a mission and value statement that we will share with all of our members in the near future in an effort to continue to strengthen our membership.

I look forward to working together to continue to support the School of Nursing, the Dean and faculty. Wishing you and your family a safe and healthy summer. We look forward to the fall and hope you will join us in celebrating at future events.

*Barbara Mills*

Alumni Board President, DNP, ACNPC, ANPC, PNP, CCRN, PCCN  
DNP '09

## In This Issue

- Welcome Messages from our Alumni Board President
- Board Member Highlight
- Alumni and Faculty Highlights, including ways to help your local community!
- Ways to become a Board Member and Donate to the School of Nursing



# Alumni Feature

**Maureen Graziano, MS '18**

MSN, RN

## Ways the School of Nursing Extends Beyond the Classroom

Adjunct faculty member, Maureen Graziano, has been busy on and off campus helping run HIS Coalition for the homeless. In an effort to address both the short and long term needs of the homeless in our local community, she gathered a group of concerned community members together and started HIS Coalition for the Homeless, a grassroots, faith based 501(c)(3).

*"We are completely volunteer- based and all donations go directly to help folks as needs arise."* Did you know that on Long Island. It is estimated that more than 3,000 individuals on Long Island are experiencing homelessness on any given day. In recent years, there has been a significant shift in the ratio of sheltered versus unsheltered homeless, with many more experiencing street homelessness than ever before (LI Homeless, 2021).

Over the past few years, we have had the honor of working with several individuals who are experiencing homelessness through many walks of life, from young adults, to college students, to senior citizens and single moms in family shelters.

*"By taking the time to engage and listen to each person's unique story, we have learned the factors that contribute to homelessness are varied and multifaceted, including, but not limited to, mental health struggles, alcohol and drug addiction, fleeing domestic violence, family strife, and/or economic instability after loss of a job."*

*"Generous donations from the community have helped us to provide needs-based outreach, supplying assistance with basic needs including nutritious foods, warm clothing and sleeping bags, campground site fees, bus tickets, essential auto repairs, motel stays during inclement weather, and sharing a cup of hot coffee and lending a listening ear. The homeless will always be among us, but we believe that through compassionate street outreach, coalition building, and advocacy efforts, we are one step closer to achieving our vision of a world where everyone has access to safe, warm, and dignified shelter and the opportunity to move into a future filled with hope."*

Visit this extraordinary group on Facebook and Instagram or use the QR code for volunteer opportunities, to learn more about their initiatives, and to and see how your support can help to assist neighbors in need.



HIS Coalition feeding the community by providing an Easter Dinner with the support of local businesses.



Suffolk Credit Union of Sayville contributing a generous donation to the HIS Coalition.



# Board Member Spotlight

**Dr. Barbara Mills, MSN '93, DNP '09**

DNP, ACNPC, ANPC, PNP, CCRN, PCCN

## **Meet Alumni Board President**

**Dr. Barbara Mills, DNP '09**

**DNP, ACNPC, ANPC, PNP, CCRN, PCCN**

**Clinical Assistant Professor School of Medicine; Former  
Director Rapid Response Team/Code Resuscitation; Former  
Director of Nurse Practitioners**

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### **What nursing program did you attend at Stony Brook University? What year did you graduate?**

*I graduated with an ANP, PNP in 1993, and I was also in the first graduating DNP class in 2009. I received my undergraduate BSN degree in 1976 from Villanova University.*

### **Why did you choose to become a nurse?**

*My mother was a nurse and she worked as a Mobile Army Surgical Hospital nurse (MASH) during the Korean War and was always my role model. Early on, I started working in a hospital at the age of 14 as a candy striper, then moving on to a nurses aide. The profession called to me at an early age.*

### **What made Stony Brook University School of Nursing your school of choice for your nursing education?**

*One of the reasons I chose Stony Brook School of Nursing (SON) was the ability to continue my education in the hospital of my employment. It was so convenient to work "upstairs" and go to school "downstairs". Having quick access to a health science library, nursing faculty, staff made the educational process so accessible.*

### **How long have you served on the SON Alumni Board?**

*I have been a member of the SON Alumni Board for many years and I am currently starting my third year as SON Alumni Board President.*

### **Why did you want to serve on the SON Alumni Board?**

*I always prided myself on the ability to give back and that has always carried with me throughout my life. I feel that as alumni, we have a responsibility to give back to the SON. We need to advocate for the future of the school and its students and I feel we should be proud of where we came from. Supporting the SON as a member of the board and donating money for a scholarship are some of the ways in which I have demonstrated my support over the years.*





# Board Member Spotlight

**Dr. Barbara Mills, MSN '93, DNP '09**

DNP, ACNPC, ANPC, PNP, CCRN, PCCN

*Continued*

**What is one piece of advice or words of wisdom that you would give to the graduating class from various SON programs?**

*My advice to the class of 2024 is to remain active in SON activities, join and participate in Nursing organizations, and become the change agents you are destined to be. Mentor and precept as you continue your career in nursing. Everyone has something to contribute to an Alumni Board and we need diversity in regards to age and backgrounds in order to be a successful board. Our job as board members is to support the Dean and her faculty, contribute to the education of the students and support the mission and values.*

**What is something that inspires you regarding the nursing profession?**

*Work together to become problem solvers. Always look outside the box when the solution is not evident. Evidence based practice is the key to success.*





# Student News

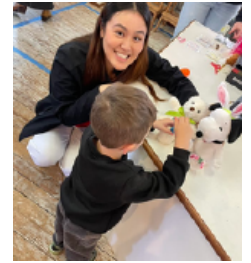
This past April, The Stony Brook Student Nurses' Association (SBSNA) attend the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) Annual Convention in Orlando, Florida. Coming home with an impressive list of awards which included,

- **Stellar School Chapter Recognition** - recognizes Stony Brook's commitment to NSNA, involvement in shared governance, and promotion of professional development within SON students and faculty/staff.
- **Population and Global Health Award** - awarded to SBSNA for the use of Teddy Bear Clinics in educating the community about illness prevention, screening, and healthcare/wellness.
- **Health Policy Award** - awarded to SBSNA for commitment toward improving health policy. By partnering with Kathleen Eviza, Sigma UN Youth Representative, and Patrick Chiu, Sigma UN Liaison, SBSNA members learned more about the most pertinent health policy issues, as well as what goes into health policy development.
- **Ethics and Governance Award** - goal was to empower SBSNA members through by providing an educational lesson and using the game-based learning platform, Kahoot, on the organization's policies.
- **Get out the Vote Award** - aimed to increase the number of registered voters and educate students on voting rights through a virtual scavenger hunt on the New York State Board of Elections
- **Winners' Way Award** - based on total state membership enrollment.
- **State Excellence Award** - NSANYS received a Nightingale Lamp for their success and increase in membership, population & global health, breakthrough to nursing, health policy, and ethics & governance.
- **Image of Nursing Award** - awarded to NSANYS for their community health initiatives and infographics reaching approximately 4000 NSANYS members.
- **Website Award** for the state level



# Student News

In May, The Stony Brook Student Nurses' Association (SBSNA) was named Organization of the Year at Stony Brook University.



SBSNA held a teddy bear clinic at the Long Island Explorium. Children in the community had a wonderful opportunity to engage in health education activities. At the clinic, children participated in interactive stations where they learned about health promotion while caring for their beloved teddy bears and themselves. The stations covered important topics such as safety, vaccines, bandaging, nutrition, and vital signs.

President of the Pre-Nursing Society Nicole Jellen, '24, was named a 2024 recipient of the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence (CASE). This award is the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a student by the University. A student leader, peer educator, and active volunteer, Jellen received this honor at a ceremony in Albany on April 11.



Nicole Jellen, '24, with mentor and instructor, Lani Blanco, MA, RN





### **2024 Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient, Dr. Kellie Dionne Bryant, DNP, WHNP, CHSE, FAAN**

Dr. Kellie Bryant is currently the Director of the Center for Innovation in Education Excellence at the National League for Nursing. Dr. Bryant has garnered expertise in her field with a teaching career spanning over two decades and 15 years of specialized simulation experience. Within her current role, she is responsible for providing leadership and strategic direction, focusing on developing revenue-generating initiatives that advance teaching excellence and enhance faculty skills for contemporary learners. This includes expanding the NLN faculty development program offerings with innovative teaching and learning strategies, while also enhancing online and in-person resources, and developing new simulation and technology products through collaborations with strategic partners. In addition, she also serves as a consultant for Dr. Uché Blackstock's Advancing Health Equity.



Dr. Bryant's research pursuits include leveraging simulation to enhance patient safety, prevent opioid overdoses, and create nursing pathway programs to inspire historically marginalized students to pursue a nursing career.

In leadership and service, Dr. Bryant actively engages with numerous national and international committees. She holds the vice chair position for the Society for Simulation in Healthcare's DEI committee and is a board member for the Global Network for Simulation in Healthcare. Furthermore, she is an elected board member of the International Nursing Association of Clinical Simulation Learning and is a member of the editorial board of the Clinical Simulation in Nursing journal. Lastly, she is the second vice president of the Greater NYC Black Nurses Association.

Dr. Bryant's educational journey commenced with an Associate degree in nursing from Hudson Valley Community College. She received her Bachelor's in Nursing and a Master's Degree as a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner from Stony Brook University. Lastly, she obtained her Doctorate in Nursing Education from Case Western Reserve University.



### **2024 Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient, Dr. Corrine Jurgens, PhD, RN, ANP, FAHA, FHFA, FAAN**

Dr. Corrine Jurgens is an Associate Professor and PhD Program Director at Boston College's William F Connell School of Nursing. Prior to Boston College, she was a faculty member in the School of Nursing at Stony Brook University for 25 years. While at Stony Brook, Dr. Jurgens held several positions including the Associate Dean for Research, Program Director for the DNP program and Director of Cardiovascular Nursing Research. Her clinical experience in cardiac and critical care nursing informs her program of research.



Dr. Jurgens research focuses on biobehavioral factors underpinning symptom perception among patients with heart failure. To support judicious use of healthcare resources, the aim of her program of research is to appropriately stratify patients to self-monitoring or intensive/objective clinical oversight.

Dr. Jurgens has conducted and published several studies and given numerous presentations nationally and internationally. A key element of her research was the development of a robust measure of heart failure symptom perception that predicts clinical events. The Heart Failure Somatic Perception Scale has been translated into several languages including Spanish, French, German, Italian, Chinese, Japanese and Turkish to name a few. In October 2019, Dr. Jurgens had the honor of representing the Heart Failure Society of America at the Japanese Heart Failure Society Scientific Sessions in Hiroshima, Japan to present on multidisciplinary management of patients with heart failure.

Dr. Jurgens is an active member of several professional organizations including the American Heart Association (AHA), the Heart Failure Society of America (HFSA), and the Eastern Nursing Research Society. She served as Scientific Sessions chair representing the AHA Cardiovascular and Stroke Nursing council, chaired 2 AHA scientific statements and has been on several writing groups for performance measures and data standards. She also was on the board of directors of HFSA for 12 years and held the officer positions of secretary and treasurer. Dr. Jurgens serves on the editorial board for the Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing and the Journal of Cardiac Failure and reviews for numerous nursing and medical journals.

Dr. Jurgens earned her Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Vermont, her Master of Science from Stony Brook University, and her PhD from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. In addition, Dr. Jurgens was a Claire M. Fagin Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania with a focus on elders with heart failure. She is a fellow of the American Heart Association, the Heart Failure Society of America, and the American Academy of Nursing.

### 2024 Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient,

### Dr. Jeanne Martin, DNP, RN, ANP-BC

Dr. Jeanne Martin, DNP, RN, ANP-BC received her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from East Stroudsburg University, East Stroudsburg PA in 1988. She received a Master of Science in Adult Health Nursing from Stony Brook University in 1996 and Doctor of Nursing Practice degree also from Stony Brook University in 2016. She began her nursing career at Stony Brook University Hospital in 1988 working as a Registered Nurse and then accepted a Nurse Practitioner position at the same institution in the Department of Urology in 1997. Her primary responsibilities involve caring for Adult Urology patients admitted to Stony Brook University Hospital in all aspects of care from admission to discharge, along with coordinating care post-discharge. Dr. Martin also serves on several hospital-wide committees including institutional quality improvement, interdisciplinary care and departmental initiatives.



Dr. Martin strongly believes that nurses must remain active in professional organizations. She has been an active member of The Nurse Practitioner Association NYS and the Nurse Practitioner Association of Long Island since 1996. She also has been part of the Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates since 1998, Sigma Theta Tau International since 2004 and the American Urological Association since 2016. She has also served on the Stony Brook University School of Nursing Alumni Board of Directors since 2016 where she is currently holding the position of Immediate Past-President.

Dr. Martin has received several honors and awards during her profession career including The NPA NYS Nurse Practitioner of the Year award (2015), the American Association of Nurse Practitioner's Excellence in Advocacy for New York State (2015), the Lenora McClean Award for Excellence in Advanced Practice Nursing for Stony Brook University Hospital (2004 & 2017), the Nurse Practitioner Association Long Island's Nurse Practitioner of the Year Award (2009), and the Pura Pantojas Award for Nurse of the Year for Stony Brook University Hospital (1994). She was also inducted into her High School Hall of Fame at Commack High School as a Distinguished Alumni in 2018 and into her college Athletic Hall of Fame at East Stroudsburg University in East Stroudsburg, PA in 2019.

Dr. Martin has presented on numerous occasions on Urologic topics both locally, regionally, and nationally. She recently contributed, as lead co-author, a chapter on Genitourinary Cancers to Oncology Nursing (in press) as well as authored 3 sections on urologic topics in "Textbook for the Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner" published in 2023. She also speaks to numerous nurse practitioner students on legislative issues and professional membership. She has served as an adjunct Clinical Instructor at Stony Brook University in the Adult/Gerontology Nurse Practitioner program.

## Message from Dr. Patricia Bruckenthal

Dean, Stony Brook University School of Nursing

This past May, Dr. Barbara Mills, the president of the School of Nursing Alumni Association, but moreover a role model and inspiration to countless nurses and nursing students retired from her distinguished career at Stony Brook University Hospital, a career which spanned over four decades.

Upon graduating from Stony Brook University School of Nursing with a Master's degree in 1993, Dr. Mills focused her nursing career specializing as a nurse practitioner in adult acute and critical care. For the past 17 years, Dr. Mills has been the Director of Stony Brook's Rapid Response Team. She was a member of the inaugural Doctor of Nursing Practice graduating class at Stony Brook in 2009. She herself was a 2015 recipient of the School of Nursing Distinguished Alumni Award. As a vital member of the Stony Brook Medicine community, Dr. Mills serves as a preceptor for today's nursing students and identifies as a "nurse's nurse."



Dr. Barbara Mills receiving the Healthcare Heroes Award



Dr. Barbara Mills during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Dr. Mills has made and continues to make significant contributions to the profession of Nursing through outstanding practice, research and community involvement. She has transformed the Rapid Response program at Stony Brook University Hospital to one that is imitated throughout the nation. She has spent 45 years in nursing and was a Clinical Assistant Professor at the Renaissance School of Medicine at Stony Brook University. Barbara will often state that she's just as passionate about her career today as she was in 1976.

Dr. Mills has often shared the story of nearly having to drop out of nursing school as a sophomore when her father passed away. It was the generosity of a scholarship that allowed her to stay in school and graduate without debt.



## Message from Dr. Patricia Bruckenthal

Dean, Stony Brook University School of Nursing

*Continued*

That gift was so important to her that she created that opportunity for a Stony Brook School of Nursing student. Barbara has stated that one of the things that she feels is more valuable today than in any other time of life is to give back to the School of Nursing.

Dr. Mills does this not only through her scholarship, but also through teaching and mentoring nursing students and new nurses. While she generously offers her talents to all nurses, she is particularly devoted to undergraduate students that may need financial assistance to make that dream a reality, recalling the opportunity as an undergraduate student that allowed her to be who she is today. I have heard Barbara encourage students to one day pay it forward, saying that *“no amount is too small or too big to help anybody achieve their goal. Nursing is the future of healthcare in this country. And the more we support each other, the better off this country and health care will be for all of us.”*

We wish you the best in your retirement from service to Stony Brook University Hospital, but not from us! The School of Nursing is forever connected to you, and we have more work to accomplish together.



Patricia Bruckenthal,  
Dean and Professor  
Stony Brook School of Nursing



Past SBU President, Dr. Maurie McInnis with Dr. Mills which she receives an award for 40 years of service to Stony Brook University Hospital.



Staff and faculty members from Stony Brook University and Hospital, gathered celebrated Dr. Mills on May 6, 2024 with an honorary clap out.

This year's Giving Day was held on March 27, 2024 and the challenges may have ended however, you can donate **all year long**.

This fund will help support student learning initiatives and allow for the growth of our programs.

**[Click Here to Donate Today!](#)**

or scan the QR Code below.



Have you recently changed jobs? Earned another degree? Published research? Traveled around the world? Celebrated a milestone? Share it with your Stony Brook University School of Nursing Alumni! Share stories and pictures - your milestone may be featured in a future newsletter!

Please email:  
[Amy.Prokop@stonybrook.edu](mailto:Amy.Prokop@stonybrook.edu)

## The School of Nursing Alumni Board, 2023-2024

### Executive Board

**President:** Barbara Mills MS '93 DNP '09

**Past President:** Jeanne Martin MS '96, DNP '16

**Alumni Relations:** Janet Masini

**Ex-Officio:** Dr. Patricia Bruckenthal

**Board Members:** Adriann Combs, Kathleen Csillag-Klein, Charles Davis, Michael Davison, Kathleen Dhundale, Tracy Dourdonas Larontonda, Debra Grimm, Kellie Gummersel, Samara Kravtiz, Rachel Landau, Jeanne Martin, Joan Nathan, Margaret O'Donnell, Ramona Ramdeo-Persaud, Smitha Thotam

