

# NYPISHS NEWSLETTER

## SPRING 2024

### *News and Notes from the Dean*

Greetings to all my NYPISHS colleagues as we wrap up the 2023-2024 academic year in the NewYork-Presbyterian Iona School of Health Sciences! It has been an amazing year as we are about to complete one full academic year on our Bronxville campus with all of our programs having a presence on this campus. We have made much progress since we had our opening over 15 months ago on January 12, 2023. For the first several months, the Kelly Center for Health Sciences was the center of many, if not all, of our activities, however, during 2023, we made progress not only in opening and using new spaces (Cafe at Bronxville, renovation of Sommer Center, updates of Schoenfeld Gym, updated classrooms in Brunn-Maier and Feth Halls), but we have revised and expanded our academic offerings as well. We have a new BS in Health and Wellness major, a new minor in Healthcare Communication and two MS programs in Nursing. We also made significant revisions to the Marriage and Family Therapy curriculum introducing a hybrid mode of delivery, and we revised both the traditional and accelerated BS in Nursing curriculum. This year, we are working on bringing new offerings to our new School of Health Sciences to make it the go-to option for students interested in pursuing health and wellness careers.



As we end this academic year, we wanted to share what we have been doing over the past year and give a shout out to all of you via this first edition of our School Newsletter. The goal is to share from all our programs as well as celebrate the successes of our students, faculty and staff. In this edition, we have shared news, photos and updates from NYPISHS programs and their engagement with community, student profiles and faculty and staff achievements.

Send news from your programs so we can highlight updates and accomplishments within our community in future newsletters. We want to feature all our programs! Contact any of us in the Dean's Office to provide information on your programs, your brilliant colleagues or your inspirational students for the next newsletter on our NYPISHS Sharepoint site. Share your stories and achievements with us!

Sincerely,  
Kavita R. Dhanwada

### *Welcome to Bronxville 2023-2024*



The Dean's Office of the NewYork-Presbyterian Iona School of Health Sciences kicked off the fall semester with a Welcome to Bronxville event on September 14 at the Kelly Center for Health Sciences. Students, faculty and staff indulged in mini donuts adorned in maroon and gold and freshly brewed coffee. The beautiful weather, with clear blue skies and warm temperatures, provided the perfect backdrop for everyone to enjoy oversized lawn games provided by the Office of Student Engagement.

### **Community Narcan (Naloxone) Training**

With the increased presence of opioids in our communities, it is important for our campus community, including our health sciences students to be trained on how to administer life-saving treatment when an opioid overdose has occurred.



On October 11, the Iona Student Nurse Association, in collaboration with the New York State Office of Addiction Services, conducted a free Narcan (naloxone) training for approximately fifty members of the Iona community. Participants were educated on how to identify the signs of an opioid overdose, respond effectively, and administer naloxone. Equipped with life-saving knowledge, each participant left with their own Narcan kit.

## NYPISHS Health Fair



On October 16th, our undergraduate and graduate students took over the Murphy Green as we hosted the ever-growing NYPISHS Health Fair! Presentations were provided by students in many of our programs. The Spring Health Fair was held on March 4th in the LaPenta Business School Atrium. In the fall, Nursing students addressed the alarming amount of sugar found in some of our favorite beverages, the pervasiveness of bullying in our communities and other important health-related topics while in the spring fair, substance abuse, stress management and mental health in college athletes. The Marriage and Family Therapy students spoke to attendees about the various affordable services offered through the Iona Family Therapy Clinic, which recently moved to Bronxville. Mental Health Counseling students offered helpful tips for those who were trying to kick the habit of smoking or vaping. The Health Fair didn't just present information, there were opportunities for on-the-spot health screenings for the attendees including blood pressure screening and BMI testing.

The Occupational Therapy students organized the "Who's the Strongest Student on Campus" contest with a grip strength test as well as interactive adaptive challenges, including donning noise canceling headphones, vision altering goggles and oven mitts to simulate various health conditions treated by OTs. CSD graduate students administered complimentary hearing screenings, reinforcing the importance of auditory health. Also, on hand to share important information were members of the Iona Counseling Center staff, Health Services, and our partners at Westchester Medical Center all offering information about free services accessible to the Iona Community, including vaccinations and mental health assistance.

## Social Work students perform a Community Assessment - A Walking Tour of New Rochelle

On September 19th, students enrolled in the Social Work Practice III course embarked on a walking tour of New Rochelle as part of their community assessment project.

The journey went from Beechmont Drive on the New Rochelle campus to the historic Trinity-St. Paul's Episcopal Church and Cemetery on Huguenot Street, a site with roots dating back to the 1800s. They continued their exploration to the public library, adorned with murals from the New Deal's Public Works Program.



The attached photo captures the senior social work class of 2024 alongside Sylvia Hamer, Executive Director (wearing a white blouse in the center) of Hope Community Services. As the day concluded, the students and Dr. Melba Butler, course instructor, were grateful for the Gael Express shuttles that provided them with a ride back to campus.

## Trails Without Limits

Jessica Brand, a second year Occupational Therapy Masters student, had an amazing fieldwork opportunity last year. In this placement, she coordinated a program called Trails without Limits for Westchester County. The organization provides individuals with mobility challenges the opportunity to explore the picturesque Westchester County Parks system using specially designed All-Terrain Trackchairs. For individuals living with cerebral palsy, spinal cord injury, paraplegia and other mobility concerns, the Trails without Limits allows individuals and their families to experience a 1-2 mile guided walk in the fresh air of Westchester County parks. Jessica not only helped orchestrate the program but also engaged in adaptive hikes with participants from across the county. Jessica's summer was quite special as her work was featured on the local CBS news outlet. If you or someone you know could benefit from this fantastic initiative, please contact Trails without Limits Coordinator, Joanna French ([joanna@thewpf.org](mailto:joanna@thewpf.org)). Read more here!



During their assessment of various New Rochelle neighborhoods, students also made a stop at Hope Community Services, a longtime partner of Iona University. Here, they not only toured the facility but also assisted in the cleanup of the dining room after an evening meal provided to food-insecure and non-domiciled individuals and families.

## What do you do when disaster strikes? Be prepared!

As part of their Community Health nursing class, nursing students in the accelerated nursing program actively participated in an activity called the “Disaster Drill” which allowed them to showcase their clinical knowledge in an emergency response simulation.

Each year this exercise offers a unique scenario. This year on October 17, the practice simulation scenario had a tragic accident occur where a shuttle bus driver overdosed while driving, resulting in the driver losing control of the bus leading to a crash with passengers inside.

In this scenario, members of the Iona community were at the scene, playing the roles of victims while Iona faculty and staff contributed to the setup and the Bronxville Police Department “arriving” to the scene and adding all of the bells and whistles to make the exercise feel authentic.

At the accident, nursing students rushed to the scene to treat the victims under the careful supervision of nursing faculty; they assessed injuries and determined appropriate levels of treatment. The disaster drill was noticed by many as in the local community slowed down to take a look of the “accident scene”.

The entire drill served as a valuable exercise for our students, and with all the good care, everyone survived even though many had to undergo a thorough assessment! For more information and photos, read more here!



## Communication Sciences and Disorders/Operation Smile Collaboration - Peru Trip

Over the last 4 years, the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders has been working with Operation Smile International (OSI) in developing educational materials for helping those with speech related disorders including cleft lip/palate disorders. Dr. Patricia Peifer-Arens, MS, CCC-SLP, the director of Community IPE Fellowships and Global Initiatives Coordinator at Iona University has been leading the efforts. She has worked with OSI and speech students to develop evidence-based therapeutic materials to provide educational support for families and patients who have undergone cleft lip-palate surgeries in central America. She attended a surgical mission in Lima, Peru in October and observed 80 patients receive life changing surgical repairs of either a cleft lip or palate. Volunteer medical staff including surgeons, anesthesiologists, nurses, speech-language pathologists, pediatric psychologists, social workers from the US and South America participated in the mission.



During her visit, Dr. Peifer-Arens was able to visit a shelter where patients and families receive pre- and post-operative care, and a community care center which functions year-round providing patients with on-going nutritional, dental, and speech/language therapies. The trip provided valuable information on providing ongoing care of the patient population and the education of the next generation of healthcare providers in Peru. The goal is to develop a series of programs that aim to support the functioning of the community care center in Lima while providing opportunities for Iona students to gain exposure and insight into the care and remediation of individuals with cleft lip and palate. The critical need for interprofessional care was exemplified during the mission. Interprofessional training is a focal point for NYPISHS.

## ***NYPISHS and LIRIC - Living in Retirement at Iona University (College) - a great team!***

Embedded in the Vision of NYPISHS is the aspiration to be a premier institution in educating healthcare professionals with a commitment to equity achieved through community and civic engagement. Throughout the month of October 2023, NYPISHS faculty gave presentations on Lifelong Well-Being to the members of LIRIC, a community of learners deeply rooted in the Iona community. LIRIC members are actively engaged in lifelong learning through a broad curriculum of courses. Representatives from NYPISHS, along with our partners at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, gave talks and had discussions on a range of topics including:

- An overview of NYPISHS and its programs presented by Dr. Kavita Dhanwada, Dean
- Movement and Adaptability as we Age presented by Dr. Laurie Olson, Occupational Therapy
- A Conversation about Working with Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children and their Families and The Challenges Faced as Hearing Loss Occurs as We Age presented by Dr. Michelle Veyvoda, Communication Sciences and Disorders
- How Our Nutritional Needs Change as We Age presented by Ms. Elizabeth Bukac, RDN, NYP Westchester
- What is IPE? A discussion led by Dr. Jeanne Match-Maroney, Social Work and other members of the IPE Faculty Steering Committee

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## **Interprofessional Education (IPE) at Iona**

The Office of Interprofessional Education hosted two workshops on September 16 with acclaimed race and relational expert, Dr. Kenneth Hardy. The morning session, titled Racially Sensitive Supervision, offered professional development for Iona IPE faculty, clinical supervisors and external site supervisors. In the afternoon, second-year IPE students joined Dr. Kenneth Hardy for a 3-hour workshop entitled, Difficult Conversations on Racial Health and Educational Disparities. The participants left with a renewed sense of professional responsibility to learn about and engage with their multiple selves, including their racial selves and how they show up in their work.

In an effort to increase awareness and provide updates about Interprofessional Education at Iona, the IPE Faculty Steering Group held an IPE Disciplines Staff Luncheon on September 20th in the Sommer Center. Dr. Jeanne Match-Maroney provided a presentation to share IPE developments at Iona since its inception in 2020, future plans and ways for everyone to get involved in IPE efforts.



On October 28th, the Mariandale Center in Ossining welcomed around one hundred Iona students for the IPE Fall Retreat. The first-year IPE students learned about the foundations of interprofessional education, enjoyed a catered lunch and then reviewed a case study about the dynamics of a family with an autistic child. Upon reviewing the case study, the students documented their strategies for addressing the scenario as healthcare professionals within their specific fields. Subsequently, they engaged in collaborative discussions with peers from other disciplines to comprehend the workings of Interprofessional Education (IPE) in a healthcare environment.

Departing from the Mariandale Center that day, the students carried with them a better understanding of what IPE means and why it is important. In the IPE Spring Retreat, the learning continues. The event will be on April 6 on the Bronxville campus. Students will receive a case study and practice the foundational concepts of interprofessional collaborative practice. The goal is for students to leave with a true sense of IPE and a clear vision of how to apply this knowledge in their future professional practice. In development of this important work, Iona University has received nearly \$2,000,000 from the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation to implement an IPE curriculum for health science and education students.

MCHF regional grant funding over the past four years has allowed Iona University to deliver foundational concepts of IPE to first and second year graduate and undergraduate students, establish and deliver community-based IPE field fellowships, train Iona faculty and staff as IPE facilitators, and provide a clinical IPE simulation experience to students. In the next year of funding, Iona University students in the health science and education programs will participate in many of these hands-on opportunities in IPE to deepen their understanding. The goal is to disseminate this information broadly; develop the healthcare workforce at large and position this critical work to continue and be sustainable in the years to come.

## NYPISHS Student Spotlight - Getting to know our students by Hope Coppinger

### Kayla Castillo '25 – MA in Communication Sciences and Disorders

Kayla Castillo '25 always knew she wanted to work with kids. Her mother worked in a school, predominantly with students with autism. Both her aunt and cousin are occupational therapists, so she is familiar with a lot of careers that entail working with young people who struggle with physical and behavioral challenges.



In high school, out of sheer curiosity and a certain comfort with the profession, she would spend time in the Occupational Therapy room, and it was there that she met a speech therapist, saw her playing board games with her students and began to understand the complexity of the work involved in speech therapy, and that it went much further than she realized.

She loved Iona, and particularly the Speech, Language and Hearing Clinic, at first sight. She chose to attend Iona for her undergraduate degree, and later for her Master's. (She was so eager to be admitted that she did 32 takes of her application video!) "I met my chosen family at Iona," she says, crediting the positive relationships with professors and the many opportunities to grow in the program. The small size makes it easy to create strong connections with faculty and fellow students and she is quick to say that professors feel like colleagues.

Speech and Hearing Clinic Director, Maria Armiento-DeMaria, graduated from Iona and has been working at the clinic for 17 years. Teaching both undergraduate and graduate students in the Clinic, she describes the experience as holistic and collaborative, and that the supervision students receive helps them build productive relationships with families. All clients come to the clinic in person, which helps to cement the idea that the clinic is a true part of the community. "We have to treat the whole person," Director Armiento-DeMaria says, and points out that the clinic also has an audiologist on staff, as well as a sensory room, a feature not normally seen in speech therapy clinics. After taking Dr. Leone's class on social communications, Kayla has worked with children with hearing issues as well as autism, and has come to understand the broad applications of her chosen career.

Especially rewarding for Kayla has been her introduction to interprofessional education (IPE) and the opportunity to do an IPE Community Fellowship. Here she worked with a social worker and another speech pathologist, simulating the collaborative experiences she'll have in the workforce. It prepared her well for her externship, when she worked with immigrant-focused organizations, helping mothers of young children understand and manage their children's behaviors in a positive way with the use of a social-emotional curriculum. This past summer, she attended the New York Speech, Hearing and Language Association (NYSHLA) conference with Dr. Leone and presented on the benefits of IPE.

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### Josh Chan '25 and Joseph Myrttil '25 – MS in Marriage and Family Therapy

Ask about the Marriage and Family Therapy Program here at Iona, and you'll hear about "systems." Associate Professor and Program Director Dr. Christiana Awosan wants students in the program to immerse themselves in the practice of seeing how the social and family systems we're raised in and exposed to shape all of us, therapists and clients alike. This examination begins in the first semester, with students looking at their biases, triggers, and strengths so that when they start seeing clients, they are sensitive to their responses. Her goal is to help students see how issues around diversity, social justice, power, and privilege operate within the work they are learning to do.

**Josh Chan '25** came to the MFT program at Iona after attaining a Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts, in sculpture and performance, and beginning his career as a graphic designer in San Francisco. After meeting with a career coach, he decided to look into Marriage and Family Therapy programs. Born in Hong Kong, he describes himself as a person of faith who identifies as queer and says that he chose Iona because the program felt safe. "I really felt cared for by the program." Now in his second year of the three-year program, he chose Iona because the program felt safe. "I really felt cared for by the program." Now in his second year of the three-year program, Josh did his externship with Kingfisher MFT and plans to open a practice after graduation (serving the following populations:



Joseph and Josh in front of the Kelly Center for Health Sciences

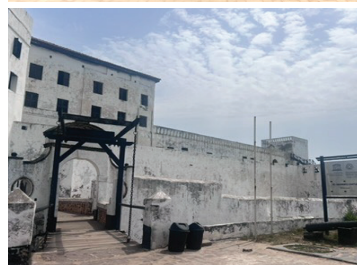
queer/immigrant/Asians/religious trauma). He feels strongly that his life experiences tie into how he relates to others and sees himself as a systemic thinker. What he most appreciates about the curriculum is the focus on the self-of-the-therapist. "The first year, we really examined the difficulties everyone is trying to work through about our upbringings and families of origin." The bonding that occurred with his cohort only reinforced his belief that no one can do this work alone and that the building of community is essential.

**Joseph Myrttil '25** believes this work is a calling. He currently works supporting people with developmental and emotional disabilities. He can see how his work could help the families of the people he works with now as they navigate the complexities and obstacles of daily life. While he had started out studying occupational therapy, he ultimately decided the field wasn't quite right for him and chose to take his work in a different direction. His Christian faith strongly drives Joseph, and he decided on Iona because he was drawn to the college's history and mission around learning and service. All of this aligned with his desire to become a Marriage and Family

Therapist by learning with and learning from people of faiths different from his own. When he began the program, he was particularly moved by his professors' wisdom and willingness to sit with students to break down this challenging work. That commitment made him want to work harder to look inward at his experiences and biases to ensure he wasn't putting those experiences on his clients. "You come in with all your baggage," says Joseph. "The professors really challenge your thinking, and that experience opens your mind and shows you ways to more fully respect people's humanity."

# Global Clinical Health - Nursing Study Abroad opportunity in Ghana

Imagine an opportunity to travel nearly 5000 miles to learn how people across the world do the work you want to do in your chosen career. That is the precisely the experience that 5 nursing students had the chance to pursue when they visited the country of Ghana. For 5 days in February, Iona student nurses Maria, Bree, Ashia, Camryn and Alexis got a chance to work with nurses at the Holy Family Teaching and Nursing Midwifery College and Hospital in Berekum, Ghana. They shadowed and helped nurses in various units of the hospital to learn about healthcare practices in this African country. Although the resources and equipment did not compare to the hospitals here in NY, the care, expertise and support given by the healthcare providers to their patients was an important reminder in the value of human touch and conversation. This global experience was due to Dr. Shery Watson's previous collaboration in bringing student nurses to this full-service hospital. It has an emergency department, pediatric unit and a dental and eye clinic. It provides women's health services, occupational and physical therapy, mental health counseling and social services. From this truly special experience, students were able to see how healthcare practices could be provided through a different lens. Dr. Brittany Lynch and Dr. Kavita Dhanwada also went on the trip to determine the feasibility of developing global IPE fellowship opportunities at the hospital and elementary schools in Berekum. The trip included cultural experiences with a visit to Cape Coast and Elmina Castle where many captured Africans were held as slaves, visiting the National Museum and a busy market in the capital city of Accra.



# NYPISHS: Program, Faculty and Staff news

## *Iona University's NYPISHS receives \$10,000 grant for mental health workshops/trainings in Bronxville*

The Community Fund of Bronxville, Eastchester and Tuckahoe has awarded Iona University a \$10,000 grant to conduct local workshops this spring that focus on managing stress, depression and anxiety. The goal is to help improve health outcomes based on the Community Fund's recent Community Needs Assessment, which identified a large gap surrounding mental health and well-being. Three one-hour workshops will take place this spring at Iona's Kelly Center for Health Sciences in Bronxville. Workshops include:

- Stress Management for Teenagers - April 18, 6:30-7:30 pm, Kelly Center
- Mental, Emotional and Relational Well-Being & Health, TBD
- Racism and Multicultural Awareness, TBD

The grant will be implemented by graduate students from Iona University's Marriage & Family Therapy and Mental Health Counseling programs.

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## **CSD achieves re-accreditation with CAA-ASHA**

During its meeting on February 7-9, 2024, the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) voted to continue accreditation for the graduate education program in speech-language pathology at Iona University for a period of 8 years beginning November 1, 2023, through October 31, 2031. This is the maximum length given by CAA and the program had no citations. Congratulations to all in CSD on a job well done!

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## *Helping to keep our community warm!*

Recognizing that nobody is immune to the impacts of inflation, the NYP Iona School of Health Sciences initiated its inaugural Coat and Warm Clothing Drive to offer support to our neighbors facing financial challenges. Coats, gloves, hats and other winter essentials were collected from November - December. The collected items were sorted and delivered to Lifting Up Westchester, a local charity dedicated to assisting our community's most vulnerable individuals by connecting them with essential resources. A huge thank you to everyone who took a small yet significant step in making difference!



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## **Events**

**Hot Cocoa Social** - To help SHS students reduce stress before finals, the SHS Dean's Office organized a Hot Cocoa Social on Thursday, December 7th, held in the Kelly Center. Elevating the hot cocoa experience, we added a touch of flair with candy cane stirrers, peppermint-flavored whipped cream, and, of course, an abundance of marshmallows! As we anticipate the arrival of more students to the Bronxville campus in the upcoming spring semester, we eagerly look forward to hosting additional student-centered events similar to this one.

**SHS Holiday Celebration** - As the fall semester ended, Feth Hall was decked out for the holidays as the Dean's Office prepared for the holidays. On December 12th, NYPISHS community members indulged in some food, drink and collaborative merriment. The highlight was our Annual Ugly Holiday Sweater contest! This year, the competition was stiff, so we crowned two first-place winners: Donna Crisp and Christy Solorio of the nursing department. We encourage everyone with a competitive spirit to start envisioning and searching for the perfect sweater ahead of next year (we're looking at you, Professor Singh!)

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## *Student Celebrations: Blessing of the Hands, Pinning, White Coat Ceremonies, Honor Society Induction*

### **Nursing**

- **Blessing of the Hands and White Coat Ceremony** - In many health professions, the time when students enter into their clinical training and begin their professional practice is celebrated by the faculty welcoming their new colleagues into the profession with the presentation of a White Coat. In the fall semester, the Nursing program in the NewYork-Presbyterian Iona School of Health Sciences, commemorated this milestone along with a Blessing of Hands ceremony on September 27. The uplifting tradition of blessing a student's hands is performed on students as they will use their hands in the compassionate care of patients.
- **Pinning Ceremony** - On December 15, the Nursing program held a Pinning Ceremony for accelerated nursing cohort that successfully graduated this past December. This ceremony, akin to a graduation event, provided students with a special occasion to celebrate their achievement of becoming nurses alongside their families and loved ones. While graduation denotes the conclusion of academic studies, the pinning ceremony symbolizes the pivotal transition from student to nurse.

### **Occupational Therapy**

- **Pi Theta Epsilon Honor Society Induction** - The Occupational Therapy program had the inaugural induction ceremony of Iona University's chapter of Pi Theta Epsilon, the national honor society for occupational therapists. The purpose of the honor society is to elevate, and encourage students for continued scholastic excellence and provide opportunities to contribute to the advancement of the field of occupational therapy. Five students were inducted in the inaugural ceremony.
- **White Coat and Pinning Ceremony** - On January 20, 2024, the Occupational Therapy program held a White Coat and Pinning ceremony for their second graduating cohort of students, the class of 2024. Similar to Nursing, the awarding of the White Coat and Pin symbolizes the entry of the students into professional practice - an event celebrated by the faculty as new colleagues enter the profession.

## Welcome to the NYPISHS community!

A warm welcome to our new full-time faculty and staff colleagues to the NewYork-Presbyterian Iona School of Health Sciences in the 2023-2024 academic year

### Communication Sciences and Disorders:

- Mathew Gross, Administrative Assistant

### Health and Wellness:

- Dr. Christina Orozco Nevers, Clinical Lecturer and Program Coordinator

### Marriage and Family Therapy:

- Dr. Tesia Wells, Visiting Assistant Professor

### Nursing:

- Dr. Adele Stanley, Assistant Professor;
- Dr. Karen Bauce, Senior Clinical Lecturer;
- Dr. Nancy Manister, Senior Clinical Lecturer

### Occupational Therapy:

- Dr. Gary Grimaldi, Assistant Professor;
- Dr. Lauren Telesmanic, Clinical Lecturer and Fieldwork Coordinator

### Social Work:

- Dr. Brittany Lynch, Assistant Professor, Program Director, MSW (change in status)
- Andrew Peters, Clinical Lecturer and Director of Undergraduate Practicum Education

*Thank you to Ms. Helena Jaccino for putting the information together for this newsletter!*

## Milestones and Awards

**Ms. Clare DeGennaro**, Adjunct Instructor and Clinical Educator, Speech and Hearing Clinic and Communication Sciences and Disorders department, for receiving the Distinguished Early Career Professional Certificate from ASHA (American Speech-Language-Hearing Association)! This certificate was created to recognize early career professionals who are making an impact in leadership, volunteering or advocacy.

**Dr. Shery Watson**, Director of Nursing and NYPISHS Associate Dean, on receiving the President's Award from the Connecticut Nurses' Association! Dr. Watson's exemplary work for the Connecticut State Department of Justice's Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner (SAFE) Advisory Committee and Connecticut State's Commission on the Standardization of Collection of Evidence in Sexual Assault Investigations was cited in receiving this award. In both 2022 and 2023, her recruitment efforts for the SAFE program led to an impressive growth of over 50% in enrollment for the semiannual training sessions each year. This success contributed to a more diverse pool of examiners available for the state.

**Dr. Michael Higgins**, Clinical Lecturer, Communication Sciences and Disorders, on advancing to doctoral candidacy. Professor Higgins' dissertation will center on the intricacies of listening in noisy environments and its correlation with language comprehension.

**Dr. Gary Grimaldi**, Assistant Professor, Occupational Therapy, was awarded the New York State Occupational Therapy Association's (NYSOTA) Certificate of Recognition for his many years of service to the occupational therapy profession at their annual conference in Albany, N.Y. At the conference, Dr. Grimaldi presented research on "Developing Health Profession Students' Understanding of Occupational Therapy Through an Interprofessional Education Event".

*Farewell - Thank you and best wishes on the next chapter!*

- **Dr. Melba Butler** - Clinical Lecturer, Social Work
- **Ms. Claire Morrissey**, Assistant Director of Graduate Admissions and OT Program Management, Occupational Therapy
- **Dr. Hailey Kopera**, Assistant Professor, Communication Sciences and Disorders

## Faculty Scholarship - Kudos!

**Dr. Michelle Veyvoda**, Associate Professor and Chair of the Communication Sciences and Disorders department and **Dr. Christiana Awosan**, Associate Professor and Program Director of Marriage and Family Therapy program contributed to a chapter in *Advocating for and Empowering Diverse Families of Students with Disabilities Through Meaningful Engagement!* The chapter, entitled "Engaging Families of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children Through Asset-Based Approaches: Loaded Backpacks and Courageous Conversations," was an interdisciplinary effort by members from within and outside of the Iona community. IPE (Interprofessional Education) is at the forefront of health science education and healthcare itself, and this chapter takes readers on a journey into one family's experience of raising children who are hard of hearing. Through this narrative, readers gain a deeper insight into the practical application of IPE.

**Dr. Shery Watson**, Associate Professor, Director of Nursing and Associate Dean, on the publication of "Opening My Eyes: Building Nursing Student Awareness of Spirituality and Catholic Social Justice Principles" in the *Journal of Christian Nursing*. In this qualitative investigation, the reflective journal entries of 21 nursing students engaged in a global clinical mission were assessed. The aim was to discern how nursing academia instills concepts of spirituality, social justice, personal and professional development in students.

**Dr. Yaliu He**, Assistant Professor, Marriage and Family Therapy program on the publication of "Sensitivity to Change of The Systemic Therapy Inventory of Change" in the journal *Psychotherapy Research*. The Systemic Therapy Inventory of Change (STIC), as a research-informed clinical tool, serves as a systemic measurement system offering psychotherapists feedback on multidimensional clinical changes in individual, couple, and family therapy. This study aimed to explore the sensitivity to change of the STIC Intersession scales—its capacity to detect reliable and valid changes following an intervention.

**Dr. Brittany Lynch**, Assistant Professor, Social Work, on the publication of *Anti-Racist Social Work Education: "ready of Not, Here I come, You Can't Hide..."* in the *Journal of Teaching in Social Work*. The article focuses on the importance of a recent update by the Council on Social Work Education's (CSWE) Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards (EPAS) that requires CSWE's accredited social work programs to embed anti-racist curriculum into their coursework.

**Dr. Gary Grimaldi**, Assistant Professor, Occupational Therapy, on his research presentation at the 2023 Allied Professionals Forum in Basel Switzerland on "The Lived Experiences of People with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis with Percutaneous Endoscopic Gastrostomy Feeding Tubes."