

P RAXIS

Professionalism in behavior, presentation,
and conduct

Respectful of the richness and diversity of
others and of self

Accountability for my actions

e**X**cellence in scholarship, practice, teaching,
and service

Integrity, inquisitiveness, and innovation

Service to the profession and the community

UConn

SCHOOL OF NURSING



CEIN/BS Commencement Ceremony

Thursday, December 14, 2023

**Jorgensen Center for
the Performing Arts**

Storrs, Connecticut

SCHOOL OF
NURSING

Order of Exercises

Processional Welcome

Del Siegle, PhD, MS, BS

Lynn and Ray Neag Endowed Chair for Talent Development

Eleanor K. Gill Outstanding Alumni Award

Susan Storti, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, CARN-AP

Josephine A. Dolan Distinguished Service Award

Lisa Sundean, PhD, MHA, RN

Pellegrina “Peggy” Stolfi Award

*Health Assessment Instructor: Melissa Rembish,
MSN, RN-BC*

*Population-based Course Instructor: Joan Kuhnly,
DNP, APRN, NNP-BC, IBCLC, CNE*

*Adult Care/Community Health: Cathi Lippman,
MSN, RN*

Sigma Theta Tau International, Mu Chapter Award

*Presented by Elizabeth Mayerson, DNP, FNP-BC,
CNE*

President, Mu Chapter

Presentation of Candidates

Annette Maruca, Ph.D., RN-BC, CNE, CCHP

*Associate Dean, Interim Director of
Undergraduate Programs*

Conferral of Degrees

Gladis Kersaint, Ph.D., MS

Vice Provost for Academic Affairs

Nursing PRAXIS Pledge

Ryan Massicotte,

Alumni Representative, School of Nursing

Closing

*Victoria Vaughan Dickson, PhD, RN, FAHA, FAAN
Dean, School of Nursing*

Class of 2023 Graduates

Avery Point

Hannah Isabella Fulton
Kellie Gilluly
Tara Hoyt
Catherine E. Montalto *
Sashana Murray-Robinson
Cara Perillo
Isabel Jayne Poole
Sasha Karasuk Puchalski
Jill Roderick
Katherine Shaughnessy
Jessica Sponheimer *
Jessica Stark
David Traficante

Stamford

Anthony Abregu
Aisling Brock
Annie Broderick
Abigail Bruce
Nakeisha N. Carrington *
Elizabeth DeMasi
Ann Godzwon *
Molly Gorman
Monique Kern
Madeline Kramer
Kevin Lanese
Megan McCaskill
Kerryann Meggie
Alexander Munro
Andre Ortega
Gabriella Perry
Siena Potenza
Nicole Psychopaidas
Dylan Ramrattan +
Cecilia E. Rivas Gomez
Lucy Terrien
Brianna Trzcinski
Morgan Christian Zenk
Michelle Zummo

Storrs

Victoria Barone-Lopez
Dasha C. Bazile
Samantha Burgos
Michael S. Candelaria
Kaleigh Cavanaugh
Mike Chernovetz
Sinny Chi
Anna Ciraulo
Karin Clark
Chelsea Collymore
Courtney Creed
Tessa Cyr
Kevin Noel M. Daguo
Harrison Dayton
Christopher Eastwood
Gabrielle Fearon
Nicole Geer-Laureano
John Geoghegan
Julia Glynos
Rosa Gonzalez
Kayle Grech
Brandon Jones
Simran Kaur *
Laurenz Mosquito
Katherine Moynihan
Zakiya Nieves
Kelley Pellegatto
Christina Peterson
Greidi Roque Rivera
Amy Seredynski
Sophia Shea
Zachary Sholes
Cyrus Smith
Jacqueline Snow
Samuel Sutura
Emily Treadwell
Kevin Twohig
Hannah Vu
Nicholas Waterhouse
Katahdin Whitney
Audrey Worth
Bethany Welch

Waterbury

Sara Adler
Nasim Aouji
Leticia Araujo
Jennifer Bastos
Hailey Benedetto
Ebony Bennett
Whitney Lascaux Birney
Jordan Conklin
Chloe Cyr
Sabrina Ferreira
Alexis Flood
Brian Gauthier
Caroline Hajzak
Ameika King
Marcus Lowe
Janelle Mangassarian *
Joy McAllister
Patrick McCormack
Eric Miller
Alexander Moakan
Camilo Ramos
Unaiza Rana
Julia Rocano
Karen Rolland *
Yarixa Santiago
Elizabeth Sciallis
Scott Seigle
Austin Skudlarek
Sean Taylor

BOLD = Sigma members

* = Class Officers
+ Veterans & active
military

We would like to honor Marcus Lowe, a CEIN student and Sigma Theta Tau inductee with a Certificate of Achievement from the University of Connecticut's Provost Office. Please hold the CEIN family, as well as Marcus' family, in your thoughts and hearts.

Pellegrina (Peggy) Lacovella Stolfi Clinical Teaching Award

**Joan Kuhnly, DNP,
APRN, NNP-BC, IBCLC,
CNE**

*Population-based Course
Instructor*

Cathi Lippman, MSN, RN
*Adult Care/Community
Health*

**Melissa Rembish, MSN,
RN-BC**
*Health Assessment
Instructor*

Peggy Stolfi has embodied clinical teaching excellence in both our traditional and accelerated CEIN/BS nursing programs for the last 21 years. Not only did she love what she was doing every day, but she built strong relationships with clinical partners, most significantly the Hartford Public School System and Connecticut Children's Medical Center. Throughout her time at UConn, Peggy went above and beyond to create meaningful, memorable, and quality clinical learning experiences for our students.

Peer Recognition Award Winners:

Avery Point
Isabel Poole

Stamford
Nakeisha Carrington

Storrs
Kelley Pellegatto

Waterbury
Karen Rolland

Sigma Theta Tau International, Mu Chapter Award Recipient



Michael Candelaria

Our Awardee graduated from high school with no intention of attending college. With the support of great counselors, this student managed to work their way first to an associate's degree, then to a BS degree in Biomolecular Sciences. Every step has been a challenge; but the student's ability and desire to give back to others has always shined through. It was on a trip to Haiti, seeing children sleeping on dirt floors and a 13-year-old giving birth that they began to understand the depth of human connections that can be established by providing care, listening to patients, understanding their needs, and gaining their trust. Care can transcend all barriers. This student was recognized multiple times by patients and families for demonstrating sincere compassion and dedication to their care. They were also recognized repeatedly by hospital staff. Nurses, nurse leaders, and members of the housekeeping staff sought out faculty to comment on this student's work ethic and enthusiasm.

The Awardee is moving closer to their ultimate dream of being a Certified Nurse Anesthetist by accepting a position in the intensive care unit at The Hospital of Central Connecticut, where they participated in the Dedicated Education experience. Our awardee wants to be where they will make a difference as a caregiver; where they can be a proud, trusted Husky. There is no doubt that Michael Candelaria will achieve his goals and be the ultimate UConn Nurse and Sigma Nurse Leader.

Eleanor K. Gill Outstanding Alumni Award for Clinical Excellence in Nursing



Dr. Susan A Storti
*PhD, RN, NEA-BC,
CARN-AP
'02*

Susan A. Storti PhD, RN, NEA-BC, CARN-AP is the former President/CEO of the Substance Use and Mental Health Leadership Council of RI and Administrator of the Opioid Treatment Program Health Home initiative. Her previous positions include Project Director for National Institute on Drug Abuse's Blending Research and Practice Initiative, PI/Director for the Addiction Technology Transfer Center of New England located at Brown University's Center for Alcohol and Addiction Studies, and Co-Director of the World Health Organization Collaborating Center for Health Professionals Education and For Prevention, Intervention and Treatment Outcome Research.

She has been recognized as a national leader who understands and articulates complex behavioral healthcare issues, identifies pragmatic and workable solutions, and forges productive local, state and national partnerships among various constituent groups. Serving as a catalyst for innovative programming, Dr. Storti led the State of Rhode Island in becoming the first in the nation to screen for and treat tuberculosis in a substance use disorder clinic, design and implement the first HIV partner notification program, and develop the Veteran's Task Force of Rhode Island - addressing the needs of returning military members, Veterans, and their families. This initiative was replicated in 13 other States.

Dr. Storti has been invited to participate as an expert speaker in legislative educational forums, and has provided Senate briefings in Washington, DC addressing issues of addiction and stigma, and its' effect on access to and delivery of health care, and health policies. She has held faculty appointments at several academic institutions including Brown University's School of Medicine and has served as a guest lecturer at the University of Athens, Greece, and in Cairo, Egypt. Dr. Storti received her PhD from the University of Connecticut's School of Nursing and she is a Board Certified Advanced Nurse Executive and Advance Practice Addictions Registered Nurse.

Josephine A. Dolan Distinguished Service Award



Dr. Lisa Sundean
*PhD, MHA, RN
'17*

Lisa J. Sundean, PhD, MHA, RN is an Assistant Professor at Fairfield University Egan School of Nursing and Health Studies and Director of the Healthcare Administration Program. Dr. Sundean serves as a national consultant for the Campaign for Action: Future of Nursing and leads a national research team for the Nurses on Boards Coalition. Her research and scholarship focus on nursing leadership, specifically examining nurses' roles on boards of directors, nursing workforce development, and health policy. She was the founding Board Chair of the CT Center for Nursing Workforce, Inc., member of the Board Quality Improvement Committee at CT Children's Medical Center, former

Board Member of the CT League for Nursing, and YWCA Hartford Region. In January, she begins her term on the Board of Directors for St. Francis Hospital.

She served as Director of the Connecticut Nursing Collaborative-Action Coalition leading development of an online population health course serving nurses and nursing students across the country. Dr. Sundean led development of the nursing workforce data infrastructure project in CT which informed the \$35 million CT Health Horizons initiative to reduce the nursing shortage by supporting nursing students and academic nursing programs in CT. To further support the CT nursing workforce, while she was Board Chair of the CT Center for Nursing Workforce, Inc. and with funding support from the Eva Stearns Faulkner Foundation, Dr. Sundean developed the idea to create and offer an online nurse faculty preparation program for doctorate prepared nurses to address the growing nurse faculty shortage. This program launched successfully in August.

With memberships in multiple national and international nursing organizations, Dr. Sundean is a Fellow in the New York Academy of Medicine, recipient of the Daisy Foundation Award for Extraordinary Nurse Faculty, member of the Organization of Nurse Leaders – MA, RI, NH, CT, VT, and a Jonas Leadership Scholar Alumna. Dr. Sundean earned her PhD in Nursing from the University of Connecticut in 2017.