

# Alumni Notes

FALL 2017 | ISSUE SEVEN



Dear Alumni:

As dean, I am often given the opportunity—the *privilege really*—to see our Mission, Vision, and Values Statement (<https://nhs.georgetown.edu/mission-values>) in action.

In the fall, for example, we welcome new students who are so eager to improve people's lives by contributing their talents to the various sectors that make up a challenging and rewarding health field. Then in the spring, we celebrate the accomplishments of members of our graduating class, who have explored and focused their passion through their time at Georgetown and in

our academic programs. Soon after Commencement, I have the honor of welcoming returning classes for Reunion Weekend, when I hear about the many ways that our alumni have spent their lives caring for others and promoting the common good. What a gift I have in these moments that truly shine.

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*Our graduates continue to achieve a great deal and set an impressive example for all of the classes that will come after them.*

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Each issue of our *Alumni Notes* publication chronicles some of this inspiring work.

Our graduates continue to achieve a great deal and set an impressive example for all of the classes that will come after them. This issue is no exception, and I hope you will enjoy reading the notes, which range from the Class of 1952 to the present.

Another opportunity, through the print medium, to learn more about our mission-centered efforts comes in the form of our *Annual Report*. By now, you have likely received in the mail the 2016-2017 edition. The publication captures the achievements and enthusiasm of our community in St. Mary's Hall. If you have not, you can download or read the publication here: <https://nhs.georgetown.edu/annual-report-2016-2017>. We look forward to academic year 2017 – 2018 being just as productive.

I am really grateful for your continued commitment to the school. Please stay in touch and consider submitting your update for the spring 2018 edition of *Alumni Notes* at <https://nhs.georgetown.edu/alumni-notes>.

Sincerely,

*Patricia Cloonan*

Patricia Cloonan, PhD, RN  
Dean



The nursing Class of 1967 visited St. Mary's Hall for a special Pinning Ceremony during Reunion Weekend 2017.

## CLASS OF 1952

**Nancy Moore Hannan (BSN)** retired from nursing in 2016. She spent the past 25 years in an OB/GYN private practice. Her two memoirs, *A Way Out* and *A Mother Never Forgets*, are available on *Amazon.com*. Her first novel, *In the Light of Winter*, appeared this summer. Also available on Amazon, the story takes place in and around Georgetown, the university, and Italy. She writes it is "...a love story for the older age group."

## CLASS OF 1964

**Patricia Govern Fuisz (BSN)** obtained a master's degree in nursing, focusing on children and families, in 1972 from New York University. She studied six additional years in structural family therapy, the last two with Salvador Minuchin. Pat worked in a variety of mental health settings and served as adjunct faculty in the Lehigh Valley. She retired this year, at 75, to spend time with seven "grands," travel, volunteer, garden, and indulge her desire to learn.

## Margaret H. Jordan

**(BSN)** serves on the board of directors of the Montpelier Foundation. Margaret actively supports an endowed undergraduate scholarship, given in her honor several years ago, at the school. She recently published the op-ed, "Too Many Americans Still Don't See Black History As Their Own," in the *Washington Post*. Read the *Post* article here: [https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/too-many-americans-still-dont-see-black-history-as-their-own/2017/06/30/6561e04c-5b59-11e7-9b7d-14576dc0f39d\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/too-many-americans-still-dont-see-black-history-as-their-own/2017/06/30/6561e04c-5b59-11e7-9b7d-14576dc0f39d_story.html).



Margaret H. Jordan

## CLASS OF 1965

**Colleen Conway-Welch (BSN, Honorary 1997)** was named to the *Modern Healthcare* Health Care Hall of Fame. Colleen is dean emerita of Vanderbilt School of Nursing and an American Academy of Nursing Living Legend.

## CLASS OF 1966

**Joyce Fitzpatrick (BSN, Honorary 1990)** was recognized for her work by the Nightingale Initiative for Global Health. Joyce, who is an American Academy of Nursing Living Legend, was honored with an award for her efforts to prepare, as a mentor and teacher, nurse leaders.

**Patricia Grady (BSN)**, who has directed the National Institute of Nursing Research at the National Institutes of Health since 1995, was interviewed for the School of Nursing & Health Studies' podcast, *RN Radio*. Listen to her interview here: <https://online.nursing.georgetown.edu/blog/rn-radio-the-future-of-nursing-science>.

## CLASS OF 1976

**Joan Burggraf Riley (BSN, MS-Nursing 1997)**, assistant dean for educational innovation at the School of Nursing & Health Studies, was selected to receive the Allan Angerio, PhD, Award for Excellence in Faculty Mentorship at the 2017 Undergraduate Research Conference at Georgetown. Joan is also an associate professor of human science and a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing. The award is named in honor of a longtime faculty member at the school and current associate dean for education and undergraduate studies.



Joan Burggraf Riley and Allan Angerio

## CLASS OF 1979

**Marianne Ditomassi (BSN)**, who went on to earn MBA and DNP degrees, was selected for induction as a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing. Marianne serves as executive director of nursing and patient care services operations and magnet recognition at Massachusetts General Hospital.



Marianne Ditomassi

## CLASS OF 1980

**Lynn Gori Mayer (BSN, Parent 2021)** earned a master's degree in 2002 and is a nurse practitioner. She has volunteered on medical missions in Colombia, Guatemala, and Mexico. For 10 years, Lynn has practiced in the field of interventional cardiology at Good Samaritan Hospital in New York, and she volunteers at a clinic, providing primary care to Spanish-speaking immigrants. She and her husband, Peter, have raised five children. Hannah, their daughter, started the nursing major at Georgetown this fall.

## CLASS OF 1985

**Maureen Morgan DeMenna (BSN)** and **Susan Brewster Meighan (BSN 1988)** recently completed their master's degrees at Simmons College. They collaborated on their capstone research project, "A Qualitative Study on End of Life Care." To celebrate their accomplishments, they traveled to Constanza, Dominican Republic on a medical mission trip. They continue to collaborate on nursing research projects at South Shore Hospital in Weymouth, Mass.

## CLASS OF 1993



Susan Brewster Meighan (left) and Maureen Morgan DeMenna (right) in the Dominican Republic

**Heather Bastardi (BSN)** just celebrated 20 years at Boston Children's Hospital as a pediatric nurse practitioner in the Advanced Cardiac Therapies Program.

**Randolph Gross (MS-Nursing)** has accepted a full-time tenure track position as assistant professor in the Lienhard School of Nursing in the College of Health Professions at Pace University. Randy, who recently earned a PhD, will be based mainly at the lower Manhattan campus and teach undergraduate students psychiatric-mental health nursing and therapeutic communication.

### CLASS OF 1997

**Caroline Stewart (BSN)** earned her master's degree in health informatics from the University of Illinois at Chicago in December 2016. After initiating her federal service with the National Institutes of Health as a senior clinical research nurse at the Clinical Center, she now serves as nurse clinical analyst for the Veterans Health Administration. She is based in San Francisco, where she lives with her husband, James, and two children, Laila and Logan.

### CLASS OF 2001

**Mary Mahoney Ruisi (BSN)** received a medical degree from Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City in 2005. She completed her residency in pediatrics at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center in 2008 and her fellowship in pediatric hematology-oncology at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in 2011. After her fellowship, Mary worked for five years at Bristol-Myers Squibb in Princeton, N.J. In August 2016, Mary moved to the Oncology Clinical Development Program at EMD Serono in Billerica, Mass.

### CLASS OF 2003

**Katie (Southerton) Atkin (BSN)** lives in Duxbury, Mass., with her husband and two sons, Liam, 3, and Wesley, 1. She practices as a women's health nurse practitioner at Beth Israel Deaconess Plymouth OB/GYN and Midwifery. She is also an assistant professor in the School of Nursing at the MGH Institute of Health Professions, where she earned her DNP degree in 2014.

### CLASS OF 2004

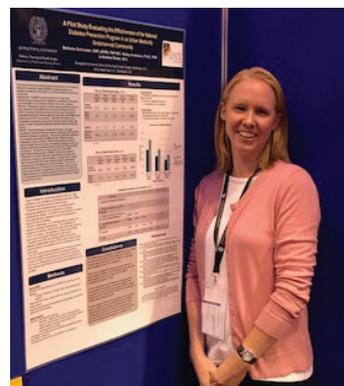
**Carrie Bowman Dalley (MS-Nursing 2004, PhD 2017)** graduated in May, earning her PhD in pharmacology at Georgetown. Carrie is a faculty member in the Nurse Anesthesia Program at the School of Nursing & Health Studies. Her dissertation is entitled, "The Role of Metabotropic Glutamate Receptor 1 in Glioma Cell Line Viability."



Carrie Bowman Dalley

### CLASS OF 2005

**Stefanie Schroeter (BSN, MS-Nursing 2006, DNP 2017)**, who was among the first cohort of students to complete the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program, recently presented a poster detailing her doctoral project, "A Pilot Study to Evaluate the Effectiveness of the National Diabetes Prevention Program in an Urban Medically Underserved Community," at Sigma Theta Tau's 28th international nursing research conference in Dublin, Ireland.



Stefanie Schroeter

### CLASS OF 2006

**Meghan Anne Mullen Duck (BSN)** has been a nurse in the University of California at San Francisco Birth Center, where she is "committed to *cura personalis*." She received her master's degree in advanced practice perinatal nursing from UCSF in 2012. In 2015, she married Brandon Duck in Lake Tahoe. They enjoy traveling, hiking, and time with their family, friends, and pets, Guinness and Bailey. Meghan is an active alumna, currently vice president of the NorCal Hoyas. "Hoya Saxa," she writes.

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Visit [nhs.georgetown.edu/news](https://nhs.georgetown.edu/news) for the latest updates from the School of Nursing & Health Studies.

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**Erika Marie Rogan (BS-Human Science)**

earned her PhD in health policy and management from Yale University in May. This past summer, she was selected as a Spotlight Health Scholar at the 2017 Aspen Ideas Festival. Erika is currently a senior consultant in the Lewin Group's Center for Aging and Disability Policy and an adjunct assistant professor in the School of Nursing & Health Studies. She is thrilled to be a part of the NHS faculty.



Erika Marie Rogan

**CLASS OF 2007**

**Chris Corona (BS-International Health)**

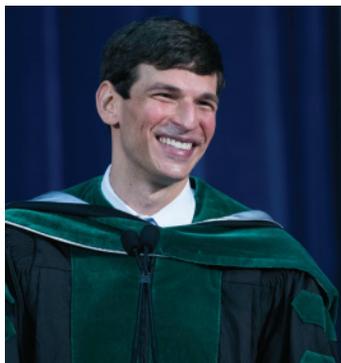
received his PhD in clinical psychology from the Catholic University of America in June 2017. As a doctoral student, Chris focused his research on the assessment and treatment of suicidal behavior. Chris began a postdoctoral fellowship in August 2017 at the VA Center of Excellence for Suicide Prevention in Canandaigua, N.Y., where he will continue to study suicide prevention among veterans through a public health lens.



Chris Corona

**David Fajgenbaum (BS-Human Science)** was invited

back to Georgetown's campus to address the graduating undergraduate Class of 2017 during the Senior Convocation Ceremony in May. David, who is a physician, has been researching a rare disease that he has personally battled—Castleman disease. Watch Convocation here: <https://www.georgetown.edu/news/senior-convocation-2017>.



David Fajgenbaum

**CLASS OF 2009**

**Michael DeLuca (BS-International Health, MS 2015, MD 2016)**, a resident physician in the Harvard-affiliated emergency medicine residency at Massachusetts General and Brigham and Women's hospitals, has teamed up with fellow Hoyas Simon Frey (B'09) and Tony Campos (B'07) to launch Pivot Health (<https://pivothealth.co/>), a digital hiring solution to streamline recruitment of nurses and advanced practice clinicians. They recently rolled out the online platform for job seekers in California, Oregon, and Washington, and will be expanding to other states and roles over the coming months.

**Elise Lockamy (BS-Health Care Management & Policy)** was selected

by Young Government Leaders for its inaugural cohort of honorees to earn the YoungGov40 Award. The award highlights "the metro Atlanta region's top government employees under the age of 40." The honor signifies that Elise demonstrates the high qualities of a public servant. She is currently a health scientist at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



Elise Lockamy

**Lauren Pappas (BSN)** and her husband, Clement, were interviewed by **Ali Gorman (BSN 1997)**, health and medicine reporter for 6abc Action News in Philadelphia, about their work to bring visibility to preeclampsia. Watch the story, "Local Parents Battle Preeclampsia After Tragic Loss," here: <http://6abc.com/health/local-parents-battle-preeclampsia-after-tragic-loss/1957438>.

**CLASS OF 2010**

**Andrea Fischlowitz (BSN, MS-Nursing 2015)** has been an FNP in family planning and reproductive health services since February 2016. In February 2017, she became the Title X clinical administrator at the Family Planning Clinic at Cook County Health and Hospital's System in Chicago. She is proud to be a working mother of daughter, Mika Priscilla Weiss. Andrea enjoys caring for the underserved and also participating in ongoing research with the CCHHS Women's Health Research Collaborative.

## CLASS OF 2011

**Jessica Cruz-Fehr (MS-Nursing)** continues to serve as a certified nurse-midwife in the United States Air Force and is stationed at Travis AFB in California. She married Maria Cruz-Fehr in May.

**Courtney Pladsen (MS-Nursing, DNP 2018)** and Patricia Cloonan, dean of the School of Nursing & Health Studies, spoke with the *Washington Post Express* for a story about nursing careers and education. Courtney is a graduate of Georgetown's Family Nurse Practitioner Program and is a current student in the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program. Read the story here: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/express/wp/2017/05/08/aspiring-and-current-nurses-have-many-options-when-forging-a-career-path>.

## CLASS OF 2012

**Carey Youmans Shallal (BS-International Health)** earned her doctor of physical therapy degree from Columbia University in 2015. Since then, she has been working at Weill Cornell Hospital, specializing in early mobilization across the ICUs. She married Ammar Shallal in September 2016, and they live in New York City.

## CLASS OF 2013

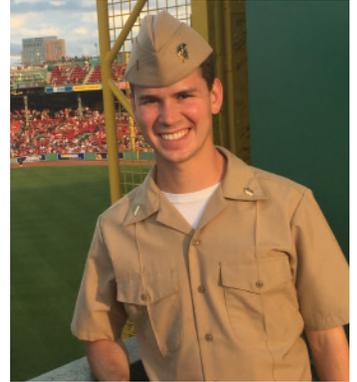
**David Barton (BS-Human Science)** graduated from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine in May 2017 and is now a resident physician in emergency medicine at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. Thanks to values of service instilled at Georgetown, he writes, David also volunteers as a wilderness search-and-rescue physician for the Allegheny Mountain Rescue Group.



David Barton

## CLASS OF 2014

**Thomas Brooke (BS-International Health)** has started his third year of medical school at Johns Hopkins University, and he is excited to explore multiple specialties. Thomas has enjoyed pursuing research with the Department of Cardiology on frailty in transcatheter aortic valve replacement patients and volunteering with a student-run clinic in the East Baltimore neighborhood. In August, he completed Officer Development School in Newport, R.I., as his first step into the military and Naval medicine.



Thomas Brooke

**Adrienne Bussard (BS-Human Science)** graduated from the Wake Forest School of Medicine Physician Assistant Program in May 2017 and is starting her career in psychiatry.

**Therese M. Collins (MS-Nursing)** continues to teach nursing as an assistant professor at Shenandoah University. She started her PhD in nursing at Villanova University this summer.

**Sarah Lloyd (BS-International Health)** is a second-year medical student at Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine, and she is excited to be on the board of three student organizations. To help build upon her Georgetown experience, Sarah also applied and was accepted to the global health honors track at Stritch. Sarah was also very proud to be named a 2017 GE-NMF Primary Care Leadership Program scholar and enjoyed researching health disparities in Los Angeles.

**William G. Warrington Jr. (MS-Nursing)** has been promoted to assistant dean and associate professor for graduate nursing in the College of Nursing and Public Health at South University in Savannah, Ga. William, who holds a PhD in nursing science and physiology from the University of Florida, previously served as the graduate academic director and associate professor for the Family Nurse Practitioner Program at South University's Orlando Learning Site.

To receive quarterly news updates from the School of Nursing & Health Studies, please subscribe to our e-newsletter at [nhscommunications@georgetown.edu](mailto:nhscommunications@georgetown.edu).

## CLASS OF 2015

**Michael E. Menchaca (MS-Nursing)** is a board-certified nurse practitioner who spent his first year practicing in internal medicine. He recently started an independently owned family practice clinic. Michael is also a board member of a new group, known as the RGV Nurse Practitioner Coalition, which seeks to pass full practice authority in Texas and unite the nursing community of south Texas.



Michael E. Menchaca

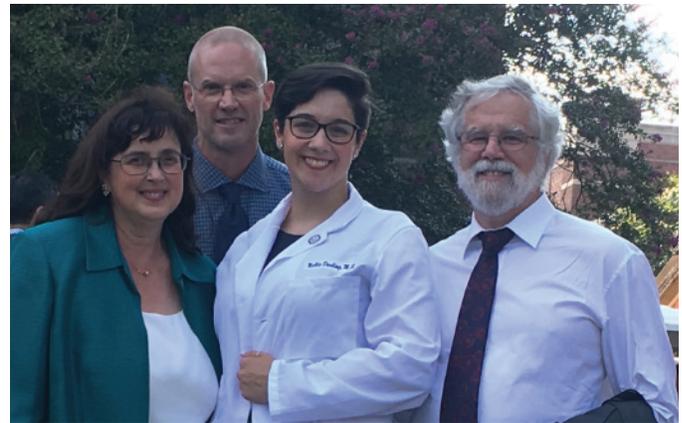
**Sharon St.Clair Simon (MS-Nursing)** is a family nurse practitioner at Generations Family Practice in Reston, Va. This spring, Sharon was elected to serve as the treasurer for the Northern Virginia region of the Virginia Council of Nurse Practitioners. She concluded her time as the co-chair of the membership committee. In August, Sharon began the DNP Program at the Ohio State University.

## CLASS OF 2016

**Paige Yang (BSN)** received the DAISY Award at Sibley Memorial Hospital, an honor given to RNs who have displayed exemplary compassion while caring for patients. She was recognized for her six-week care of a patient, who was in a coma and later died, and her fluency with Fujianese to help “break down the medical and cultural barriers that the family faced.” She writes, “I know that my undergraduate education definitely played a crucial and an influential role in this achievement.”

## FROM NHS TO SOM...

On August 4, several graduates from the School of Nursing & Health Studies participated in the School of Medicine’s White Coat Ceremony as members of the Class of 2021. Enjoy some of their photos!



Nellie Darling (BS-International Health 2011) with family members



Neil Sarna (BS-Human Science 2017), Sarah Berg (BS-Health Care Management & Policy 2017), and Kelsie Gould (BS-Human Science 2017)



Murphy Owens (BS-Human Science 2015), Logan Scoon (BS-Human Science 2015, MS 2017), Cayla Fappiano (BS-Human Science 2015), Sarah Berg (BS-Health Care Management & Policy 2017), and Idanis Perez-Alvarez (BS-Health Care Management & Policy 2017)

**Black Alumni Summit**

October 20-21, 2017

<http://advancement.georgetown.edu/bas>

**Homecoming**

November 3-4, 2017

<http://homecoming.georgetown.edu>

**John Carroll Weekend, Seattle**

April 12-15, 2018

<http://jcw.georgetown.edu>

**Reunion Weekend**

June 1-3, 2018

<http://reunion.georgetown.edu>

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GeorgetownNHS

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