



May 2017



Congratulations to the Class of 2017!

Commencement weekend was a series of celebrations for graduates and their families (see our [Commencement](#) and [Convocation](#) albums). On Thursday, May 18, the Wildcat Crossing Recognition Ceremony was held (see below). At Friday's Commencement, [Mary Snyder '17 BSN](#) was the student speaker ([watch her speech](#) starting at time stamp 24:05) and [Grace Carbajal '17 BSN](#) represented her classmates in receiving her diploma from Rev. Peter Donohue, OSA, PhD, University president. In the Class of 2017, 97 students graduated with their BSN degree, with another 27 RNs also earning their BSN, while 15 graduate students earned MSN degrees and [nine graduates of the PhD program were hooded by Fr. Donohue](#).

We also congratulated two new ensigns in the Navy Nurse Corps- Kara Johnson and Allison O'Neill- who were [commissioned](#) Friday, following Haley Specht, a new Army Nurse Corps 2nd lieutenant commissioned the previous weekend. During the May 20 Convocation, each student was recognized and received his or her diploma. Academic and service certificates, as well as awards, were distributed in recognition of achievements. Welcome to our newest alumni!

Alumnae lauded at 28th Annual Mass & Alumni Awards Ceremony



The achievements of four distinguished alumnae were celebrated on April 29 during the College of Nursing's 28th Annual Mass and Alumni Awards Ceremony, held in the St. Thomas of Villanova Church. The Rev. Peter M. Donohue, OSA, University president, presided. Lesley Perry, PhD, RN, associate dean, bestowed the College's highest award, the Medallion to:

- [Angela R. Coladonato '77 BSN, DNP](#): the Medallion for Excellence in the Administration of Health Care Services. She is senior vice president and chief nursing officer for The Chester County Hospital in West Chester, Pa.
- [Amy Pelleg '96 MSN](#): the Medallion for Distinguished Leadership in Nursing Practice. She is Nurse Manager, ICU, Bryn Mawr Hospital.
- [Michele "Micki" Ballister '08 MSN, '13 DNP](#): the Medallion for Excellence in Nursing Education. She is assistant professor, Division of Anesthesia for Nurses at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston.

Dr. Perry also recognized the achievements of [Jennifer Yost '00 BSN, PhD, RN](#) with the College's Emerging Scholar Award. As an assistant professor, School of Nursing, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Dr. Yost focuses her research on knowledge translation and decision making.

Special recognition was given to [Professor Mary Ann Cantrell '89 MSN, PhD, RN, CNE, FAAN](#) for 25 years of service to the College as well as past nursing parents [Marianne and Richard J. Kreider](#). He is a 1983 alumnus of the Villanova School of Business, the inaugural Chairperson of

the College's Board of Consultants, loyal donor and current Chair of the College of Nursing Campaign Committee. He also serves on Villanova's Campaign Executive Committee.

See our [Facebook album](#).

Nurses honored at Wildcat Crossing Recognition Ceremony



The Wildcat Crossing Recognition Ceremony on May 18 honored under-represented and/or first-generation students who, through unyielding determination, successfully completed an undergraduate or graduate degree from Villanova University.

In addition to nursing students being recognized for their achievements, Dr. Elizabeth Dowdell, professor, was the inaugural recipient of the Wildcat Crossing Faculty Award for the College of Nursing, presented by Rev. Peter Donohue, OSA, PhD,

University president. She was recognized for her dedication to her students and her passion for helping them exceed their own expectations for themselves.

Registered students were asked to nominate a faculty member who helped them on their journey and who embodies the values of unitas, caritas, and veritas. One of Dr. Dowdell's nomination letters noted: "She has always challenged me to become better and strive for more."

See our [Facebook album](#).

Emma Max selected as Falvey Scholar for end-of-life study



Congratulations to senior Emma Max who was selected this spring as Nursing's Falvey Scholar. The award, established by Falvey Memorial Library, recognizes outstanding undergraduate research. Her study

Save the date for "Healthy Decision Making in a Food-Rich Environment"



Mark your calendar for the fall conference **"Healthy Decision Making in a Food-Rich Environment,"** co-presented by the College of Nursing's MacDonell Center for Obesity Prevention and Education (COPE) and Villanova School of Business, to be held in Driscoll Hall on September 15. Created for nurses, nurse practitioners, dietitians, health coaches, business professionals and policy experts, the two-part conference includes *The Mind-Environment Connection: Using Mindfulness to Promote Healthy Choices* and *Eating in Context: Perspectives on the Consumer, the Context, and Policy Drivers of*

evaluates nursing students' knowledge, attitudes, and self-efficacy towards caring for a dying patient.

Food-related Decisions. Contact hours available for nurses and dietitians.

Learn more on COPE's site.

[Read an interview with Emma](#)



Free COPE Webinar - Can Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) Improve Adherence to Eating and Weight Loss Goals?

On June 26th at 12 noon, join Jena Shaw Tronieri, PhD, assistant professor of Psychology in the Department of Psychiatry as well as director of Clinical Services at the Center for Weight and Eating Disorders at Perelman School of Medicine at University of Pennsylvania, for a better understanding of the potential use of ACT as a complement to traditional dietary and lifestyle weight loss treatment methods.

[Read more and register](#)

Need your contact hours? See our full listing of CE offerings.

Are you a mandated reporter licensed in PA? Don't miss our new CE: [Child Abuse Recognition and Reporting](#)

Upcoming Events

July
19

July 19
[Online RN-BSN Open House](#) @ 12n Eastern. RSVP with your name and Open House date to RSVP@VillanovaU.com

Aug
1

August 1
Summer Convocation

Sep
15

September 15
COPE Fall Conference co-presented with Villanova School of Business: [Healthy Decision Making in a Food-Rich Environment](#)

Sep
21

September 21
Collaborative Care for Immigrants and Refugees, part of the Naratil Family Health and Human Values Lecture Series

We'd love to hear your news! Email ann.mckenzie@villanova.edu with the details.

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