

# Quinnipiac

School of Health Sciences

A FIRST-CHOICE SCHOOL  
OF EXCELLENCE  
VIEWBOOK 2024





# A Message from the Dean



Thank you for taking the time to read through this report and to learn more about the incredible work of our faculty, staff, students and alumni over the last year.

It is an honor for me to serve as the dean of the School of Health Sciences, and I am happy to share with you our amazing successes.

As a school, we are over 2,100 students strong with 22 total programs. Our undergraduate and graduate students excel in academics, boasting high marks for entrance into the school and impressive certification/licensure pass rates with seven certification pass rates at 100%. Our incoming first-year students will be entering with an average GPA of 3.65 and a median SAT of 1216.

Our faculty and staff continue to deliver remarkable and transformative teaching, scholarship and service, including study abroad, faculty-led research, student-in-residence programming, program- or topic-specific podcasts, summer camps, pro bono clinics and much more. The Occupational Therapy and Physician Assistant Studies programs remain nationally ranked in the top 20 programs in the country by the U.S. News & World Report, and our grant funding and philanthropic contributions continue to rise.

Just this past year, we were so happy to welcome the Quinnipiac University EMS Agency to our school. QU EMS is a volunteer, student-run, certified, supplemental first responder agency providing emergency medical services and education to the Quinnipiac community. QU EMS just celebrated its fifth anniversary, and I look forward to helping support and enhance the agency and helping them meet their goal of becoming a leader in collegiate emergency medical services.

Be sure to dig deeper into this report to see all our amazing work.

Our comprehensive strategic plan has been implemented and it both acknowledges where we are today and charts a path to a vibrant, innovative and sustainable future. Our focus is on creating robust and market-driven programs; creating value-added and distinct offerings; creating meaningful and impactful community, corporate and clinical partnerships; and catalyzing a culture of health and wellness to create an environment where faculty, staff and students flourish.

Now more than ever, the need for our professionals is growing, and the School of Health Sciences is doing its part to help transform healthcare. We invite you — our students, parents, donors, alumni and colleagues — to join us as we help create the University of the Future.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janelle M. Chiasera". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Janelle M. Chiasera, PhD  
*Dean of the School of Health Sciences*

# Our Values and Priorities

The School of Health Sciences prepares students to tackle major challenges inherent in 21st-century patient care and medical research. Our innovative and highly ranked programs — offered at the bachelor's, master's and clinical doctorate levels — develop forward-thinking clinicians, imaging professionals, rehabilitation specialists and scientists.

## **Why We Exist**

To develop leaders who will transform the future of healthcare and health sciences

## **Our Community**

Forward-thinking students who want to propel their passion into meaningful and impactful professions

## **Why It Matters**

The health and wellness of our communities depends on health professionals educated to be adaptable and able to translate knowledge to meet future challenges and opportunities

## **How We Do What We Do**

Through more than 20 future-focused programs that integrate academics with high-impact immersive experiences to promote the transformation of knowledge into real-world experiences

Through interprofessional education that fosters a mindset of effective communication, teamwork, inclusivity and collaboration among professionals — a mindset critical for success in the rapidly evolving health professions

Through student-centered experiences that foster the full development of our students as lifelong learners

Through scholarship and community engagement that improves health science and health professions' education, knowledge and practice

# Three-Year Strategic Plan

**Vision:** The School of Health Sciences will be the nationally recognized school of choice for students, faculty and employers.

**Mission:** Our school provides excellence in education, scholarship and community engagement with a mission grounded in our commitment to producing skilled and compassionate graduates, creating pioneering research, and partnering with our communities to advance the health and well-being of people and communities. Through unique and distinctive academic programs, interdisciplinary collaboration, immersive learning experiences and student-centeredness, we empower students to deliver compassionate care, create innovation through research and catalyze change in dynamic health fields. Our emphasis on evidence-based medicine, critical thinking and interprofessional skills equips our graduates to make impactful and inclusive contributions to their professions. In all our endeavors, we are guided by a commitment to innovation, accountability, excellence and social responsibility as we aspire to be a first-choice school of excellence and a global leader in fostering new knowledge, improving healthcare and increasing health equity.

## Core Values and Strategic Priorities:

Innovation | Excellence | Integrity | Collaboration | Accountability | Social Responsibility | Positive Force for Good





# Message from Denise Fiore



I am grateful and honored to serve as the chair of the Advisory Board for the School of Health Sciences and to have been part of this board since its inception. As a two-time graduate of Quinnipiac University, I am thrilled to be able to give back to my alma mater by leading a group of talented visionaries from across the spectrum of health professions focused on providing expertise, guidance and support to ensure the School of Health Sciences remains a forward-focused, vibrant and relevant school.

This past year, we have been in regular communication with the dean, having organized two face-to-face meetings. We have participated in the comprehensive strategic planning process for the school, and I am very happy to report that we are united as a board with 100% participation in the Spring 2024 Bobcats Unite: Quinnipiac University Days of Giving.

I look forward to another year of service and to working with my fellow colleagues on the board. If you have any suggestions for us, please feel free to contact me at [denise.fiore@sbcglobal.net](mailto:denise.fiore@sbcglobal.net)

Denise Fiore  
*SHS Advisory Board Chair*  
*Former Senior Vice President, Yale New Haven Health*

I am proud to be a philanthropic supporter of the School of Health Sciences, and my gifts to the school have allowed me to support the impactful work of our students, faculty and, through the Thought Leaders in Healthcare Speaker Series, the greater healthcare community. The education that the School of Health Sciences and Quinnipiac University provided opened doors for me, and I am proud to have an opportunity to open doors for others. I encourage you to join me in giving back — gifts of all sizes make a difference.

- **A gift of \$50** provides the funds needed to support induction into honor societies.
- **A gift of \$100** covers the cost of white coat or pinning ceremonies that mark a significant transition in our students' academic careers.
- **A gift of \$250** supports impactful community engagement experiences for our students: Go Baby Go, Camp No Limits, EQUIP and study abroad trips.
- **A gift of \$500** will help us outfit our new simulance (simulated ambulance) with Basic Life Support (BLS) and Advanced Life Support (ALS) supplies to support live action training.
- **A gift of \$1,000** would help defray the costs of our students presenting at national conferences.

By investing in our school's areas of greatest need, your gift has a transformative impact on our students, faculty and programs, providing critical funding that shapes the School of Health Sciences today and for years to come.

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to last a lifetime:

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# Quick Facts

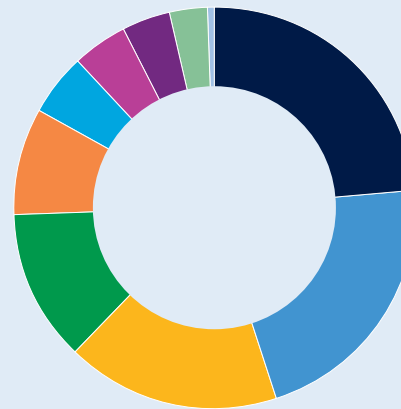
## Career Outcomes (2023 Success)



- **In or planning to attend graduate school** (71%)
- **Employed** (25%)
- **Seeking employment** (4%)

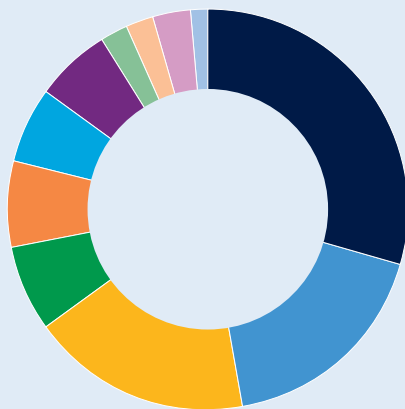
*Percentage of our 2023 graduates who are either employed or enrolled in a graduate program six months after graduation*

## Fall 2023 University Enrollment



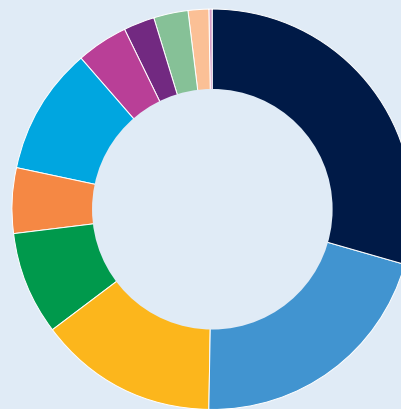
- **SHS** (2122)
- **SB** (1900)
- **CAS** (1529)
- **SON** (1101)
- **SOC** (756)
- **SCE** (459)
- **SOM** (384)
- **SOL** (360)
- **SOE** (265)
- **Non-degree** (42)

## Undergraduate Enrollment



- **Health Science Studies** (422)
- **Health Sciences/Occupational Therapy** (252)
- **Health Sciences/Physical Therapy** (255)
- **Health Sciences/Physician Assistant** (96)
- **Biomedical Sciences** (102)
- **Radiologic Sciences** (86)
- **Diagnostic Medical Sonography** (88)
- **HSC Online degree completion** (30)
- **Health Science Studies Undeclared** (30)
- **Athletic Training** (47)
- **Medical Microbiology & Immunology** (16)

## Graduate Enrollment



- **Physical Therapy** (207)
- **Occupational Therapy** (144)
- **Physician Assistant** (101)
- **Pathologists' Assistant** (58)
- **Biomedical Sciences** (38)
- **Social Work** (71)
- **Doctor of Occupational Therapy** (30)
- **Post-Professional OT** (17)
- **Cardiovascular Perfusion** (20)
- **Advanced Medical Imaging & Leadership** (11)
- **Radiologist Assistant** (1)

## 2023 Licensure/Certification Pass Rates

Exam/Area	State/National Pass Rate	Quinnipiac Pass Rate
Diagnostic Medical Sonography–Sonography Principles and Instrumentation	70%	100%
Diagnostic Medical Sonography–Specialty Exam*	*	100%
Diagnostic Imaging: Radiologic Sciences	84%	80%
Diagnostic Imaging: CT	88%	100%
Diagnostic Imaging: Mammography	73%	100%
Occupational Therapy	95%	100%
Physical Therapy	95%	99%
Physician Assistant	95%	100%
Pathologists' Assistant	92%	100%
Cardiovascular Perfusion–Basic Science	88%	100%
Cardiovascular Perfusion–Clinical Applications	96%	100%
Athletic Training	74%	92%
Social Work LCSW	74%	87%

All SHS data for Fall 2023 based on 2021–22 reporting, Class of 2022

DMS\*–annual ultimate pass rate across all specialties. Students can take one or many specialty exams and it does not need to be reported, so we do not have an exact comparison to state specialty to specialty.

## Rankings and Distinctions





# New Faculty



**Linda Ann Bedard**  
*Physical Therapy*  
*Director of EQUIP*  
*Rehabilitation*  
*Clinical Assistant Professor of*  
*Physical Therapy*

Linda Bedard joined the physical therapy department in July 2023 after serving many years as a part-time and visiting faculty member. She has extensive experience in geriatric clinical care across the healthcare continuum and has served in numerous clinical leadership positions. She is Director of EQUIP Rehabilitation overseeing the EQUIP pro bono clinic and EQUIP for Life teams.



**Nicholas J. Charboneau**  
*Physician Assistant Studies*  
*Clinical Assistant Professor of*  
*Physician Assistant Studies*

Nicholas Charboneau joined the physician assistant department as a visiting professor in January 2023 and became a permanent member in July 2023. A Quinnipiac alumnus of the graduate physician assistant studies and entry-level master's physician assistant (ELMPA) programs, he has experience in emergency medicine and urgent care. He has been an adjunct instructor in biological sciences and for the physician assistant department, teaching at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.



**Ann Sanoji Samarakkody**  
*Biomedical Sciences*  
*Assistant Professor of*  
*Biomedical Sciences*

Ann Sanoji Samarakkody joined the biomedical science department in fall of 2022 as a visiting professor and started as a tenure-track assistant professor in June 2023. She brings experience in cancer biology and molecular and cell biology. Her research focuses on DNA damage repair pathways leading to cancer predisposition.



**Angela Brown**  
*Physical Therapy*  
*Clinical Associate Professor of*  
*Physical Therapy*

Angela Brown joined the physical therapy department in January 2024. As a board-certified orthopedic clinical specialist, she has extensive knowledge of musculoskeletal conditions. In addition to her content expertise, she served as a National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE) performance strategist to assist students in their preparation for the physical therapy board exam. She is completing her doctorate in education with a concentration in positive leadership.



**Michael A. Mayo**  
*Physician Assistant Studies*  
*Clinical Assistant Professor of*  
*Physician Assistant Studies*  
*Director of Simulation,*  
*Interprofessional Education and*  
*Point of Care Ultrasound*

Michael Mayo joined the university as a physician assistant faculty member in September 2023. He completed his doctoral studies in medical science and is a physician assistant, residency-trained in emergency medicine and critical care, as well as a critical care paramedic. His clinical practice is in cardiothoracic surgery and critical care.



**Paul Wolujewicz**  
*Biomedical Sciences*  
*Assistant Professor of*  
*Biomedical Sciences*

Paul Wolujewicz joined the biomedical sciences faculty in July 2023. With a doctorate from Cornell University and post-doctoral training at the Brain and Mind Research Institute of Weill Cornell Medical College, his background and training are in biophysics, neuroscience and computational genomics. His research endeavors are focused on leveraging genomic and biomedical data to advance our understanding of complex genetic disorders including structural birth defects.

# Faculty Spotlight

## Student inspires life-saving kidney donation from professor

Tania Grgurich, clinical professor of diagnostic imaging, was scrolling through Facebook when she came across a distressing post from one of her students in need of a kidney donation. It was a post that would ultimately save the lives of three people, including her student's life, Samantha Markham '21.

Grgurich immediately contacted the Center for Living Organ Donors at Yale New Haven Hospital, a program that arranges kidney and liver transplants from living donors. She registered that day with the hope that she could become a potential donor.

"She had posted that she was looking for a kidney donor," said Grgurich. "I was actually on vacation at the time, and it was right then and there that I looked up the number for Yale and completed the first part of the donor screening over the phone."

After earning a bachelor's degree in radiologic sciences, Markham returned to Quinnipiac to complete her MRI certificate at the School of Health Sciences where she was able to reconnect with her favorite instructor, Professor Grgurich.

"Tania was my professor through my undergraduate years at Quinnipiac, and she was one of my favorite professors to work with," said Markham. "She was always extremely approachable. If someone wasn't feeling well, or if you had questions about the lecture, you could always talk to her."

Though she was born with both of her kidneys, Markham's never fully developed, and she had her first transplant when she was seven. It was during her senior year at Quinnipiac that she began to show symptoms of kidney-related health issues. A year later, she was diagnosed with stage 5 chronic kidney disease.

"For the kidney to last as long as it possibly can for my body, I would need a living donor, not a deceased donor," said Markham. "It was harder for me to fathom someone just deciding to give a kidney. How was I going to ask someone for an organ? I just couldn't imagine anyone actually doing that for me."

Grgurich had decided that she wanted to be an altruistic donor with the Kidney Exchange Program facilitated by Yale. Whether Grgurich matched Markham or not, by offering to donate a kidney, she would guarantee Markham received a living kidney donation, while also setting off a chain of transplants with two other donor-recipients registered with Yale's organ transplant program.

"I wanted to help as many people as possible, and through the exchange, that could happen, and it could trigger a chain or a couple of different swaps," said Grgurich. "So, Samantha ended up with her best match, and other people ended up with kidneys as well."

On March 23, 2023, Grgurich and Markham underwent their transplant surgeries together at Yale New Haven Hospital.

"As I was getting prepped for surgery, Tania was already in the recovery room after having donated," said Markham.

It didn't take long until Grgurich was back in her Quinnipiac classroom and Markham returned to her healthcare career as an X-ray technologist with a Connecticut-based outpatient clinic. In April, Grgurich was honored as the Healthcare Educator of the Year at the Hamden Chamber of Commerce's Healthcare Warrior Awards ceremony.

"I feel exactly how I did before," said Grgurich. "I really feel like it's improved my quality of life, knowing that I made a difference for somebody else. And if I had an extra kidney, I would do it again."



# Strategic Partnerships

## Improving college readiness for high school students

Several new initiatives are providing high school students with the opportunity to jumpstart their college careers while preparing them for success in college and beyond.

On March 31, the School of Health Sciences welcomed more than 50 North Haven High School students to its North Haven Campus for a day of interactive learning activities highlighting a broad range of allied healthcare and health science professions. The students studying anatomy and physiology experienced hands-on practical anatomy and histology labs, toured the state-of-the-art facilities and engaged with a health science student panel.

Gisela Rodriguez, co-program director and clinical assistant professor of biomedical sciences, directed a firsthand dive into the endocrine system. After a brief lecture, Rodriguez guided masked-and-gloved students through endocrine organ dissections. The day also included a Quinnipiac student panel discussion. “The professors we met today were so nice and informative,” said North Haven High School senior Summer Mastriano, who will join Quinnipiac as an undergraduate in the physician assistant program in the fall. “I felt really comfortable around them. It was a great experience. I’m very excited to go into next year and expand my knowledge.”

Local students in Quinnipiac’s partner districts can also explore their interests while earning transferable college credits through the university’s QU Academy. This initiative provides students with an introduction to college-level courses all from the comfort of their high school classrooms.

Accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE), high school instructors certified by Quinnipiac University provide deep, hands-on exploration of subjects with a rotating list of courses from the School of Health Sciences, School of Communications and the College of Arts and Sciences. Participating students graduate with a strong understanding of college-level material and an official transcript with transferable college courses and credits from a competitive university.

## Expanding health science dual enrollment opportunities

A new collaboration is underscoring Quinnipiac’s commitment to streamlining pathways for high school students to succeed in college. This spring, the School of Health Sciences launched its first dual enrollment program for high school students at Indian Hills High School in New Jersey. Through the dual enrollment program, high school students will be able to explore their interest in a health science career with course topics including An Introduction to Healthcare,

Medical Terminology and Human Microbes. Upon successful completion of the course, students are awarded transferable credits that will be accepted at hundreds of colleges and universities nationwide. Expansion of the program will continue this fall with several additional Connecticut districts including Sacred Heart Academy, Coventry High School and Danbury High School.

## Social work access improved by CT Health Horizons Innovation Project Quinnipiac awarded \$150,000 to support CT Health Horizons Innovative Project

In an effort to address the shortage of social workers, Quinnipiac has been awarded a grant of \$150,000 to support the university’s social work program in developing a more robust social workforce in Connecticut. The CT Health Horizons Innovative Project will work to remove barriers for future social workers to pursue a career in the field, with an emphasis on those from under-resourced communities and underrepresented racial and ethnic groups. All services will be provided free of cost to eligible participants, with preference given to Quinnipiac graduates and Connecticut social workers from alliance districts, along with those who are underrepresented in Connecticut’s current workforce of licensed social workers.

## Innovative LCSW program fosters DEIB (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging) in social work

Quinnipiac is implementing several new initiatives in direct response to employer demands for more licensed clinical social workers (LCSW) and the critical need to support Black and Latinx social workers in licensure preparation. A custom LCSW exam prep course for Master of Social Work (MSW) graduates and current social workers in Connecticut will provide job readiness for participants and link job seekers to employers through a newly created social work employer connections program. The network will help social workers identify career paths that are most appropriate to their interests and facilitate long-term retention of MSW graduates in the state’s workforce.

### The multi-pronged innovative project includes:

1. Customized social work license exam prep course free to all participants.
2. MSW employment readiness training for Connecticut social workers.
3. Quinnipiac’s Social Work Employment and Hiring Fair linking state behavioral and mental healthcare providers with Connecticut social workers seeking employment.
4. LCSW exam fee of \$260 and licensure fees paid for up to 90 qualified individuals who participated in the innovative project.



# Community Engagement



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## Occupational therapy collaboration tackles social injustices

A community-focused partnership with St. Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen has Quinnipiac occupational therapy students working to address social justice issues facing homeless, near homeless and formally incarcerated individuals in Middletown, Connecticut. Designed to increase student empathy and awareness for marginalized populations, programming is intentionally developed to promote meaningful interaction and self-reflection on another's lived experience.

With funding from an occupational therapy alumna who established The Criminal Justice Reform Fund for Emerging Areas of Practice in OT in 2017, faculty and students collaborate to deepen the understanding of the intersectionality of poverty, racism, addiction and mental illness. Students work closely with individuals utilizing the soup kitchen, community partners, clinical practitioners and leaders to address the needs of this marginalized population through a social justice framework focusing on the transition from homelessness to housing.

Occupational therapy programming includes a vocational arts program, recovery program, leisure and socialization program, employment service, psychosocial programming, life skills and home readiness.

Homelessness and near homelessness have a significant impact on a client's ability to engage in self-care, health management and participation in meaningful activities. This is a role-emerging setting for occupational therapy with the capstone seeking to establish the efficacy of occupational therapy intervention. Pre- and post-tests will be utilized to measure outcomes as well as satisfaction surveys to assist in modifying programming to meet client needs.

St. Vincent de Paul and the occupational therapy students have seen remarkable engagement in programming, including an increased number of individuals served, employed and enrolled in community colleges, recovery programs and vocational arts. Overall, the staff of St. Vincent de Paul have noted that the programs have had a significant impact on decreasing problem behaviors on the streets and that their clients are more engaged in the community. Students have conducted numerous surveys that indicate high satisfaction with programming and a positive impact on quality-of-life metrics. Entering the third year of collaboration, the goal is to have a sustainable year-round presence and establish an interprofessional education (IPE) team to address the needs of those who visit the St. Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen.



### Panelists explore youth empowerment through restorative justice practice

The School of Health Sciences kicked off Social Work Month in March with a panel discussion exploring how social workers can empower youth through restorative justice practice.

During the event's opening remarks, Carol Awasu, social work department chair and program director, invited each attendee to consciously consider the influence of restorative justice practices on society.

"What impact would practicing restorative justice have on our youth, our families, our schools, our communities? How do we repair harm, take responsibility and accountability for our actions?" asked Awasu. "How do we promote engagement? What must we do personally, professionally and collectively to practice restorative justice?"

Panelists were chosen to highlight the various intersecting layers of involvement in restorative justice practice.

Nebiyu Masresha, MSW '23, is a veteran and immigration expert and the 2023 National Association of Social Workers (NASW)/Connecticut MSW Student of the Year. During his remarks as a panelist, he shared his work establishing New Haven community programs to de-escalate police and first responder situations by increasing awareness surrounding mental health issues.

"This is where the advocacy part comes in, for you as a social worker," said Masresha. "Looking at what the community needs are, and advocating for those needs, especially in terms of mental health in Black and Brown communities."

Joining him on the panel was Lisa Simone, a developer and principal of five programs, including two traditional alternative education schools and three

education programs within juvenile justice. The programs assist adjudicated boys, ages 14 to 18, so they can successfully navigate life in the community.

Restorative justice involves building relationships, said Simone.

"You can't restore a relationship unless you build a relationship...As social workers, we have to get that right from day one," said Simone. "Even though I work through a restorative lens every day with our students, I also do it with the adults. As a social worker, you are going to do that, with everybody."

Panelist Tai Richardson spoke from his perspective as a juvenile probation supervisor in Bridgeport Superior Court. Within the branch, he is a member of the juvenile probation training advisory committee, employee well-being subcommittee and an adjunct trainer of foundations of cultural responsiveness. He is also a certified trainer and facilitator in Advancing Youth Development through the Academy of Educational Development.

"Be that person that changed your life for someone else. Be that motivation and have the empathy to realize that this could be my child, my little brother or my little sister," said Richardson. "Center that in everything that you do."

Ray Boyd also joined the panel discussion as program manager for New Visions for Public Safety at the Yale Law and Racial Justice Center. As the co-founder of Skills of Socialization (SOS) at Osborn Correctional Institute and the TRUE Reentry program at Cheshire Correctional Institution, Boyd works to provide hope for a new direction for incarcerated individuals. Earlier in his life, he was incarcerated for 30 years, beginning at age 17.

"You have this aspiration to help and to have an impact on so many lives, but the way you have it figured out in your head, you may have to reach some forks in the road; you may have to climb some steep hills to get to where you need to go," said Boyd. "Find balance and don't burn yourself out. Just remember, the map is not the terrain."

Simone noted that the panelists onstage exemplified the various layers of involvement, education and experience that are required in restorative justice practice.

"The four of us really represent that macro experience," said Simone. "We have life experience, through juvenile justice, through education, through social work education. You can't do one without the other. When we funnel it all the way down, it's that one youth, that one adult, that one client. But you need all of us to make that happen."





### Physician assistant program named Volunteer of the Year

During its annual “Night of Hope” celebration in March, the National Kidney Foundation (NKF) honored the Quinnipiac Physician Assistant program with its Volunteer of the Year award.

“A part of the mission of our program is community outreach. Each of our undergraduate and graduate students gives many hours of service, participating in activities that support the community as well as the university,” said Tim Ferrarotti, chair, assistant clinical professor and program director of physician assistant studies. “During our 22-plus year involvement with the NKF, our students and faculty have participated in several programs and events, including the KEEP Public Health Program, fundraising walks and 5K runs, volunteering at the annual NKF Night of Hope and participating in public health fairs.”

The Kidney Early Evaluation Program is a public health initiative offering surveillance and early detection of chronic kidney disease to underserved populations. The NKF Night of Hope is an annual gala that celebrates clinicians and donors who are integral to the Connecticut Chapter of the National Kidney Foundation. Its specific mission is affordable, sustainable and quality renal care, and education and prevention of kidney disease within the community.

As each student completes the graduate physician assistant program, they must reflect on their service involvement. Ferrarotti noted that, frequently, graduates highlight these NKF events for having the greatest impact on their practice as physician assistants.

During the ceremony, Quinnipiac alumna and current clinical preceptor Jaclyn Colfer '02 was also recognized with the Excellence in Care Award, honoring her significant contributions to the Hartford Hospital Transplant Program.

**Quinnipiac**  
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HealthCare

### Partnership seeks solutions to healthcare worker shortage

A university-wide partnership with Hartford HealthCare is currently addressing the state and national shortage of healthcare workers by growing student interest and streamlining pipelines to current and future health professions.

“This creative partnership will make a difference for the workforce ahead as we create new training and educational vehicles for colleagues and build an essential pipeline to many rewarding careers, beyond healthcare, right here in Connecticut,” said Jeffrey A. Flaks, president and chief executive officer of Hartford HealthCare.

For the School of Health Sciences, this partnership is helping to grow the school’s clinical placement footprint, internship and experiential learning opportunities, and advanced skill development for health science students.

Throughout the year, students shadow, engage and perform research working alongside Hartford HealthCare staff. In addition, they gain valuable insight into various fields, practice professionalism, and learn from their successes and failures in the field.

Launched in 2022, School of Health Sciences students are already seeing the benefits firsthand.

In an evaluation of their experience, one student noted that they gained hands-on experience that emphasized the importance of collaboration between science and healthcare careers.

“Having an understanding of how to work with peers is very important. In school, almost every class has students working together on some assignment with peers.”

Another noted, “This internship exceeded my expectations. I enjoyed getting to pick a topic I was interested in and learning more about it. I gained valuable experience working with hospital staff.”





### **Students-in-residence program offers life lessons at Masonicare community**

When Annemarie Allen '23, MOT '25, and Elise Maiorano '23, MOT '25, learned they could provide effective strategies to help the elderly remain independent and active, while spending an academic year residing at Masonicare's assisted living community, they immediately had the same thought.

"We looked at each other and said, 'We have to apply for this,'" said Maiorano. "It sounded like the most incredible experience."

While their fellow students moved into residence halls at the start of the 2023–24 academic year, Allen and Maiorano relocated to Masonicare's Pond Ridge assisted living and memory care neighborhood at Ashlar Village in Wallingford, Connecticut.

During the year, the two interacted with their older adult neighbors while also undertaking studies in the Master of Occupational Therapy program at Quinnipiac's School of Health Sciences.

School of Health Sciences Dean Janelle Chiasera said the move-in marked the resumption of the annual Quinnipiac-Masonicare students-in-residence partnership after it was paused from 2020 through 2022 due to COVID-19 safety protocols. The partnership began in 2016.

The live-in experience is highly valued by Quinnipiac occupational therapy graduate students and offers a unique exchange for the community it supports, said Chiasera.

"This is wildly popular because it's an opportunity that doesn't happen a lot in colleges," said Chiasera. "We can't mimic this on our college campuses. The value of it is that not only do our students learn and expand, but the residents learn and expand too."

As proven by the program's past success, the intergenerational experience between the students and older adults also helps to refute society's often negative views of ageism and reverse ageism. Students interact with residents who contribute their energy, wisdom and vitality. Residents find in their younger colleagues the values of hard work, dedication and compassion, added Chiasera.

The program also supports the growing need for young professionals to help shape the future of aging services to support a growing demographic. According to Chiasera, the in-residence program draws a lot of interest in the selective application process.

"A great deal of the selection is based on the passion about care in long-term care facilities and working with patients with dementia," said Chiasera. "We like students to have that interest in the beginning, so they can expand upon it, with the hope that they will continue and go on to work at a place like Masonicare or others."

By sharing their experiences with their classmates, the students-in-residence also help to demonstrate the spectrum of possibilities for careers in aging services, as well as showcasing the vibrancy and fulfillment of a career working with elders.

During their residency, Allen and Maiorano provided a minimum of eight hours of occupational therapy service per week to their assisted living community neighbors.

Chiasera said the School of Health Sciences is thrilled to see the program resume for a fifth year.

"This was a build-on that came out of the long-term relationship that we have had with Masonicare for a number of years," said Chiasera. "Quinnipiac is sending students here for clinical rotations, sending nursing students here and we now have business students here too. To be able to build on that relationship and develop something that's as transformative as this type of experience — that's the power of these types of partnerships."





Photo credit: Community Partner

### Students expand worldviews with Guatemala intercultural learning trip

In a capstone research project designed to strengthen intercultural learning, graduate occupational and physical therapy students have traveled to Guatemala over the past two years.

The capstone experience consists of background and pre-departure education, a 10-day community-based global learning experience in Guatemala and focused group reflections. The capstone emphasizes the importance of mutually beneficial relationships, critical reflection, solidarity, cultural humility and social responsibility.

Erin Sabato, senior director of global learning, works directly with community partners in San Lucas Tolimán, Guatemala, to determine the structure of the trip with input from Occupational Therapy Professor Valerie Strange and Physical Therapy Professor Julie Booth.

The program is designed to ensure student immersive experiences in Mayan and Guatemalan cultures, advocacy, values, solidarity and the impact of culture on the community and individuals. Upon returning to Quinnipiac, students reflect on how to implement these perspectives into their future practice as occupational therapy and physical therapy providers.

After piloting trips with occupational therapy and physical therapy capstone students, an interprofessional group including students from occupational therapy, physical therapy, nursing, psychology and computer information systems will travel to Guatemala to work with partner K'AMAYAL in January 2025.



Photo credit: Erin Sabato



Photo credit: Julie Booth



Photo credit: Erin Sabato





### Simulation, scenario training refines skills of future first responders

Through a generous donation by Hartford HealthCare, Quinnipiac students now have access to a new tool to enhance their skill development in the treatment of patients during life-threatening situations.

With the gift of a simulance, a decommissioned ambulance used for training purposes, students have the opportunity to prepare for emergency simulations in a safe and controlled manner, providing a unique learning experience while helping to master key concepts in a realistic way.

“This simulance is more than a vehicle; it is a testament to the power of collaboration between a health system and an educational institution,” said Janelle Chiasera, School of Health Sciences dean. “A partnership that no doubt strengthens the health and wellness of our society as our students leave the walls of our institutions better prepared and more able to respond to the challenges inherent in 21st-century healthcare.”

Kevin Ferrarotti, senior director of EMS at Hartford HealthCare, said the simulance offers multiple real-world benefits.

“Now when you go outside the campus and actually work in the field of EMS and in the field of healthcare, you’re going to be one step above that EMT or paramedic that’s coming in off of the road now — going right into a real-life scenario,” said Ferrarotti.

Hartford HealthCare was also a sponsor of this year’s mass casualty training exercise held on campus in April. During the event, the student-run Quinnipiac EMS, Quinnipiac Public Safety and numerous area first responder agencies turned out in full force for a realistic training drill to test skills and response to an unexpected crisis.

The hands-on scenario on the Mount Carmel Campus was strewn with volunteers enacting roles of victims and bystanders with realistic-looking injuries, wounds and psychological impacts after a fictitious driver “crashed” a pickup into a crowded sporting event. In two different evolutions, the patient-focused drill



unfolded in real time from the point of contact to the first arriving crew and the final simulated transfer of patients to definitive care.

Quinnipiac EMS Captain Alex Bayer, BSN '25, said his team organized the drill to test the ability of internal responders to effectively plan and work with outside agencies on the forward movement of patients should such an incident arise, and to help identify any strains on the local 911 system.

Event supporters also included Yale New Haven Health, Gateway Business Communications Inc., American Medical Response Inc., Trinity Health and Hunter’s Ambulance. Additional agencies participating in the drill included CESI at Hartford Hospital, North Branford Fire Department, Bethany Fire Department, Old Saybrook Fire Department and Hamden Fire Department.

The event also extended an educational opportunity for EMS providers by offering a morning didactic session with medical or leadership tracks. Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) students were encouraged to participate in the morning medical session, as well as to observe the afternoon drill evolutions.

Quinnipiac EMS members Abby Crowell '25, nursing major, and Lia Roybal '25, biomedical sciences major, wrote the 40 different victim, bystander and patient roles for the drill. Volunteers filling the roles included Quinnipiac students and the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine Standardized Patient and Assessment Center actors.

Quinnipiac EMS member Emina Metjahic '24, a behavioral neuroscience major, volunteered as an actor for the drill to experience the other side of her work as a first responder.

“I’ve always been in an EMT and provider role, and I thought it would be interesting to know from the other hand how we react in these situations and what it feels like from a patient’s perspective,” said Metjahic. “Everything I know is from a healthcare perspective, and I think it’s important to also know how it feels to be in this situation.”



# Interprofessional Healthcare Education



## Games provide competitive edge to interprofessional education

Quinnipiac game-based learning activities are providing students with a fun and interactive environment to practice new interprofessional education (IPE) techniques and skills that result in the highest level of patient care.

Offered through the Center for Interprofessional Healthcare Education (CIHE) and overseen by facilitator trainers of the CIHE executive committee, Friday Night at the ER (FN@ER) is a simulation game challenging teams of four to manage a busy hospital during a simulated 24-hour period in one hour of play.

The players manage four departments within the simulated hospital including emergency, critical care, surgery and step-down while dealing with the unexpected situations that often come up in emergency rooms. Each player has the responsibility to run their department efficiently while providing the best care for the patients. Players are individually scored by department with an overall hospital score recorded that considers quality errors and cost. Following the scoring, a facilitated debrief explores player reactions to what felt real, factors driving behavior and strategies for improvement.

During the 2023-24 academic year, nearly 250 students participated in FN@ER including participants from Quinnipiac Schools of Law, Health Sciences, Medicine and Nursing. More than 95% of the players considered FN@ER a valuable experience and that the lessons were relevant to their profession or major. The interactive game highlights the importance of communication, flexibility and teamwork in providing the best patient care.

Another tool in Quinnipiac's game-based learning initiatives involves the design of IPE escape rooms, proven to increase the knowledge of specific health conditions and corresponding treatments. In 2019, Quinnipiac's Social Work Professor Emily



McCave designed the “Escape from the Hospital Room!” IPE learning activity to help build competency in the core interprofessional understanding of roles and responsibilities, effective teamwork and communication in patient care.

Working together in the escape room, Quinnipiac students from various health disciplines are placed into teams including majors from social work, medicine, nursing, physician assistant, occupational therapy and physical therapy. Together, students work to solve the case of “John Doe,” a patient who arrives to the emergency room disoriented, with symptoms of memory impairment and psychosis. Teams are given 45 minutes to solve a series of interactive puzzles to learn more about the roles and responsibilities of their respective professions. In addition, the teams gain an understanding of the symptoms and treatment methods for individuals with Alzheimer's disease and use their collective problem-solving skills to discover information about the patient.

After the team “escapes,” the facilitator works with participants to understand more fully the challenges experienced including time constraints, deciphering complex information, handling limited patient information and recognizing the potential for miscommunication.

Since its creation, more than 150 students have participated in the escape room which runs multiple times each semester. To address increasing student demand, McCave is collaborating with Associate Professor of Game Design Jonah Warren and game design students Matthew Merritt, Michael Merritt and Nathan Pippin to develop an online digital version of the escape room. Their work has been supported by an internal grant from the Faculty Scholarship & Creative Works Impact Fund as well as funding from the Center for Interprofessional Healthcare Education. The digital version is currently in the play-testing phase.

# Alumni Spotlight

## Graduate recognized for exceptional transgender care

In recognition of her work and advocacy for transgender care, Quinnipiac physician assistant graduate Cheryl Sturgis, MHS '14, recently earned recognition at Dartmouth Health as the 2023 Physician Assistant of the Year.

Sturgis was exposed to the field of medicine at an early age, growing up with both parents in the healthcare field. During her time at Quinnipiac, she became interested in working at a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) in primary care. She joined the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) and attended conferences that helped to expand her knowledge and capabilities in her current position at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, New Hampshire.

Looking back, Sturgis credits her college experience for transforming her career path and leading her to a six-year position at a community health center, Northwest Human Services Inc., in Salem, Oregon.

“I had the opportunity to care for a super diverse patient population including patients experiencing homelessness, migrant farmworkers and patients speaking a variety of languages including Spanish, Russian, Ukrainian, American Sign Language (ASL), Arabic and Vietnamese, among others,” said Sturgis. “About half of my visits each day were done in a language other than English. I also started the transgender program at the clinic and was able to gain experience in working with transgender patients in a primary care setting.”

Sturgis was introduced to transgender medicine while at Quinnipiac in her primary care rotation at Fenway Health in Boston. It was there that she discovered that healthcare access is difficult for transgender people because medical providers have little to no training working with transgender patients either in their education or professional careers. Sturgis realized that many transgender people avoid accessing healthcare as a result.

“I saw firsthand how life-changing hormone therapy is and the quality-of-life improvements that occur after starting medical transition,” said Sturgis. “Given that not many people do this work, I am honored to provide care to this patient population and provide a service that is difficult to access, especially in a rural setting like where I live. I feel blessed to watch my patients over time as they progress in their transition and have more confidence about how they present themselves to the world.”



She notes that she also benefited from attendance at Fenway Health’s annual conference and the variety of training videos on the organization’s National LGBTQIA+ Health Education Center website that are free and accessible to the public. She adds that the American Academy of Physician Assistants also has an LGBTQ+ caucus which is a great place to make connections.

Sturgis said that treating transgender patients is about providing care to benefit the lives of LGBTQ+ people.

“I always try to do my best for my patients, treat them with care and respect and meet them where they are,” she said. “There’s a lot of medical trauma and distrust of the medical system with this population, and for good reason given their previous experiences in a variety of medical settings. My hope is that I can provide a positive place for them to access healthcare where they feel trusted and heard.”



# Celebrations!



DPT White Coat



MOT Class



AMIL Pinning



Radiologic Sciences Pinning



DMS Pinning



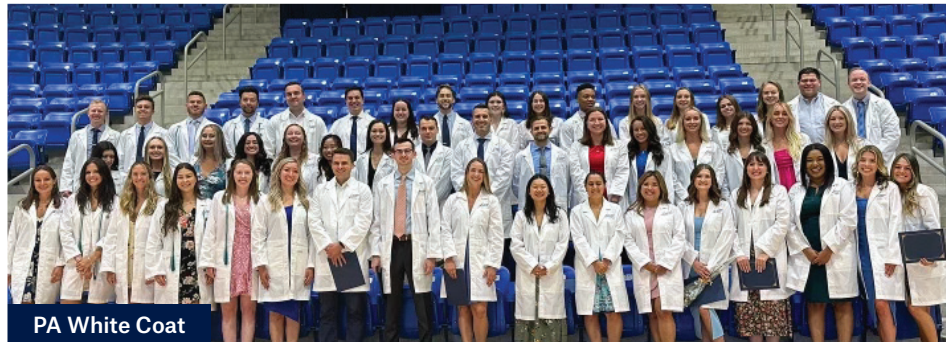
Alpha Eta Induction



Post-Professional OTD



Pathologists' Assistant White Coat

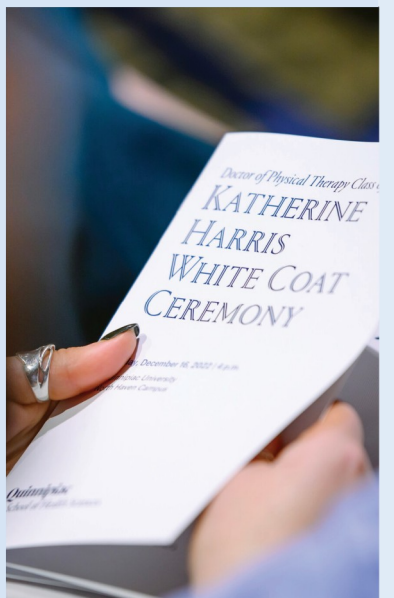


PA White Coat



MSW Pinning







# Celebrating 50 years of physical therapy excellence

Throughout 2024, members of the Quinnipiac Physical Therapy community — past and present — joined together to celebrate 50 years of excellence and growth as a leader in physical therapy education.

Established in 1972, Quinnipiac Physical Therapy formed its inaugural Class of 1974 on the Mount Carmel Campus. Located today on the North Haven Campus within the School of Health Sciences, the program provides an innovative, student-oriented environment that blends education with hands-on opportunities to provide compassionate care.

Embodying both the university's and American Physical Therapy Association's core values, physical therapy students provide person-centered care using evidence-informed practice to optimize movement and positively transform society. The program is also dedicated to developing lifelong learners who will enhance the profession through a commitment to reflective practice, interprofessional collaboration, leadership and socially aware action.

Department of Physical Therapy Chair Ken Kosior said the multifaceted Quinnipiac experience prepares students who can meet the evolving health needs of society as caring professionals.

"I think it's always been that unique combination of meeting the professional needs, but also having a quality competent clinical component — with compassion as the hallmark."

In its 50th year, Quinnipiac Physical Therapy is experiencing a record number of applications, at a time when other programs across the country are struggling to attract students into their physical therapy programs.

Opportunities for study abroad and academic participation in local community clinics and partnerships also deepen student experiences and skillsets.

Quinnipiac's innovative approach to physical therapy education is evident in the student-operated, faculty- and alumni-led EQUIP Rehabilitation Clinic. The clinic offers physical therapy and occupational therapy services to the entire community including exercise classes, health and wellness education, health screenings, health fairs, involvement in adaptive sports, and customization of products for children with physical and cognitive impairments through the Go Baby Go Program. Over the past decade, physical therapy students have cared for more than 400 EQUIP patients.

As part of the celebration, with the assistance of alumni contributions, the Harold Potts-Edward Tantorski Endowed Professorship was established. A department first, this faculty leadership position honors the legacies of two exceptional individuals whose combined leadership spans 32 of the program's first 50 years.

The program's inaugural chair, the late Harold Potts, was responsible for the program's accreditation in 1974. Among his accomplishments, he chaired the department until 1987. Edward Tantorski joined Quinnipiac's faculty in 1973 and continued the growth of the program as its department chair from 1987 through 2004. He retired in 2019.

In February, Tantorski was an esteemed guest of more than 130 alumni, together with faculty, at a special reception celebration during the APTA CSM 2024 conference in Boston.

"I am so proud to have taught all of you," Tantorski said. "I thank you for being part of my life, a big part of my life, a meaningful part of my life, and I wouldn't change it for anything."

During the reception, Kate Duffy, DPT '25, shared how physical therapy students from Quinnipiac receive notable recognition as they undertake clinical experiences.

"To call myself a physical therapy student is something I am proud of, but to call myself a Quinnipiac physical therapy student is a distinction that I am so grateful to be able to make," said Duffy. "So, thank you all for setting a standard, one that my peers and I work hard to maintain."

The reception was planned with assistance from key members of the newly formed Quinnipiac Physical Therapy Alumni Chapter, initiated last year. Currently, the alumni chapter has nearly 200 registered members.

According to Kosior, one of the most consistent messages he has heard from Quinnipiac physical therapy students, past and present, is that they recognize and appreciate the value of their educational journey.

"They know that physical therapy at Quinnipiac is one of the top programs in the Northeast," said Kosior. "That value of education is what drove them to come to Quinnipiac. As students, they're seeing it's the reality of who we are."

# Department Highlights



## Physical Therapy

Student and faculty accomplishments over the past year include hosting the 2023 APTA Connecticut Annual Conference in North Haven, Connecticut, and presenting at APTA Education Academy Educational Leadership Conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In addition, students Hannah Stamm and Natalie Armstrong presented a poster at several professional conferences including the 2023 Academy of Neurologic Physical Therapy Annual Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota; the Consortium of Colleges and Universities Annual Conference; Move United Educational Conference; APTA Pediatrics Annual Conference; and APTA CSM.

The physical therapy alumni base has surpassed 3,300 members and is growing each year. The Class of 2023 produced a first-time pass rate of 94.9% and ultimate pass rate of 100%, well above the national average. The department hosted two important events this year including the third annual Dr. Katherine Harris White Coat Ceremony and the second PT Professional Networking Event. Networking events drew more than 125 students and 35 employees creating a new tradition of relationship building and professional network development among employers, program and students.

Celebrating the program's 50th Anniversary in 2024, the department kicked off the year with over 150 alumni, faculty members, students and clinical partners at an event during CSM in Boston. Accomplishments for the year include meeting the endowment threshold for the Potts-Tantorski Professorship honoring two physical therapy founding members, Harold Potts and Ed Tantorski. In addition, the Physical Therapy Alumni Chapter and department look forward to more events in 2024 including the \$50K for 50 Years campaign and Class of 1974 reunion.



## Physician Assistant Studies

The physician assistant studies department earned distinction when Alec Williams '22, MHS '24, was recognized as one of only two students named "PA Student of the Year" by the Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants at its annual business luncheon.

In addition, students shared case report posters and participated in national and regional conferences including the 2023 Connecticut Academy of PAs Charter Oak Conference in March. On the national stage, more than 20 graduate physician assistant students presented posters and/or served in the House of Delegates at the American Academy of Physician Associates (AAPA) Conference in Houston, Texas.

The department also welcomed Michael Mayo as a principal faculty member in September.

Quinnipiac graduates continue to have success on the PANCE, with a 49/51 first-time takers passing and 51/51 overall passing. This professional assessment known formally as The Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination assesses the clinical knowledge, clinical reasoning and other medical skills and professional behaviors that have been deemed important for entry-level practice as a physician assistant. After passing PANCE, graduates are issued NCCPA board certification.





### Rehabilitation, Health and Wellness

Our students have been active in both internships and capstone presentations.

Emma Cohen completed a season-long clinical affiliation with the Carolina Panthers football team.

Brooke Venkitachalam was awarded the NATA District I Bobby Gunn Student Leadership Award.

Members of the Athletic Training Club volunteered with In a Heart Beat to provide ECG screening to high school athletes across the state.

Monroe Maki has accepted a graduate assistant position with the Corey Stringer Institute at the University of Connecticut.

Erin Dahlke was selected to present her senior case study Morel Lavallee Lesion in a High School Football Player at The Eastern Athletic Trainers' Association meeting. In addition, Dahlke has accepted a graduate assistant position at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she will have the opportunity to perform research at the Matthew Gfeller Sport-Related Traumatic Brain Injury Center.

Both Amanda Ervin and Samantha Cotes have accepted graduate assistant positions at the University of South Carolina where they will have the opportunity to work with the Gamecocks Athletics.

We have our greatest number of NFL internships in a single summer, for summer 2024:

Luca D'Ambrosio has an NFL summer internship with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Colin Casey has an NFL summer internship with the Denver Broncos. Kristina



Caroselli has an NFL summer internship with the Atlanta Falcons. Stephanie Cantone has an NFL summer internship with the San Francisco 49ers.

Our alumni are doing great things as well.

Anna (Volpe) Knechtel (BS '05) was named the CATA Don Bagnall Secondary Schools Athletic Trainer of the Year.

Brett Mastropoll (BS '09) was named the head athletic trainer for football at Brown University.

And finally, our faculty is passing the torch as Stephen Straub, PhD, ATC, completed his two-year term as President of the CATA as Sara MacDonough Civitello, MS, ATC, started her role as President-Elect.

### Diagnostic Imaging

In February 2024, the diagnostic imaging department hosted an alumni event featuring 19 participants representing graduates from Classes 2000 to 2022. Participants attended either in person or via Zoom and shared their career journeys with current students across all programs. This interactive session provided valuable insights into the opportunities a Quinnipiac degree offers students entering their respective fields. The department will continue to host similar events in the future to maintain strong connections within the Bobcat community.

Student achievements include recognition for six third-year (senior) students studying radiologic sciences who competed and won first place in the annual Connecticut Society of Radiologic Technologists (CSRT) College Bowl at Middlesex Community College. The winning team members were Haylan



Engstrom, Kristin Labrecque, Elisa Mohr, Sydney O'Neill, Brooke Walker, and Elizabeth Velez. The team was guided by their faculty coaches: Kori Stewart, radiologic sciences program director; Pauline Rocha, radiologic sciences clinical director; and Tania Grgurich, radiologic sciences faculty member.

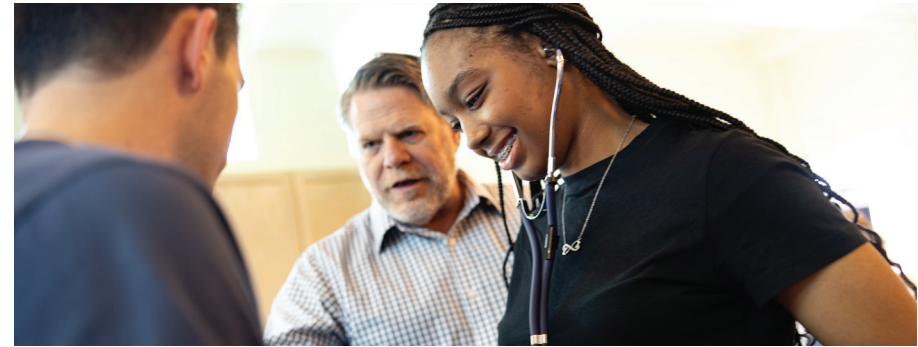
This year, department faculty and staff celebrated 31 graduates with a May Pinning Ceremony: 10 diagnostic medical sonography students, 17 radiologic sciences students and four advanced medical imaging students. Elizabeth Velez was selected as one of two students from Connecticut to participate in the three-year American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) Student to Leadership Development Program. In addition, the department inducted the following students into Alpha Eta Society National Honor Society: Brooke Walker and Elizabeth Velez from radiologic sciences; Grace Carabetta and Hannah Coppolelli from diagnostic medical sonography; and Sophie Weiland from advanced medical imaging and leadership.

### Occupational Therapy

The occupational therapy department has seen remarkable activity and achievement during the past year. This spring, the department proudly welcomed 21 students into the Pi Theta Epsilon honor society, while 15 students were honored with induction into Alpha Eta.

Faculty accomplishments during the year included media appearances by Nicole Fidanza, who shared insights on caregiving for individuals with dementia on WICC Radio, and Martha Sanders, who provided tips on safe shoveling practices on Channel 3 WFSB News. Faculty promotions include Fidanza to clinical associate professor, Valerie Strange to clinical professor and Karen Majeski, who attained tenure and was promoted to associate professor.

Occupational therapy students have been actively engaged in scholarly pursuits, presenting their research alongside faculty at conferences including the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, Community



Action Summit, Association of Schools Advancing Health Professions, and the Connecticut OT Association. Notably, the American Occupational Therapy Association's Inspire Conference featured over 20 presentations from Quinnipiac. Furthermore, the fourth annual student-led conference on "OT's Role in the Digital Age" attracted a significant turnout of occupational therapy students and professionals.

In celebration of Occupational Therapy Month, the SOTA club hosted the inaugural Quinnipiac "Oh Tea" party. Additionally, in collaboration with the Edward and Barbara Netter Library, the department co-sponsored a book club and photo exhibit. These initiatives highlight the department dedication to advancing occupational therapy while enriching the community.

### Health Science

As one of the School of Health Sciences' newest departments, health science is home to the health science studies program and online degree completion program. In addition, the department oversees the direct-entry dual-degree programs (HHS/DPT, HSS/OTD, HSS/MOT, HSS/ELMPA). With 457 students strong, experiential learning opportunities grew over the past year with 462 students participating in high-impact, experiential learning through community engagement, hands-on development, patient communication or internship courses.

In a spring 2024 ceremony, the department proudly recognized 24 students who were inducted into the Alpha Eta Society.

Health science now offers four different minors: nutrition, and three new minors added this year in sports medicine, human movement and health equity. With each initiative, the department is focused on creating an educational experience that meets market demands, is unique and distinct, and provides pathways for students exploring careers in the field of health science.





### Biomedical Sciences

Students in biomedical science have been active in both internships and capstone presentations throughout the year. Several cardiovascular perfusion students presented results of their research papers at seminars and conferences across the country, including the Wisconsin Perfusion Society's 30th Annual Spring Meeting, the Annual Seminar of the American Academy of Cardiovascular Perfusion, the Annual Education Seminar of the North Carolina Society of Perfusion, the Mid-Atlantic VAD and ECMO Symposium, and the Sanibel Symposium.

Professor Dwayne Boucaud received a grant to work as a consultant for the U.S. Agency for International Development. The primary responsibility for this position will be to work with the USAID Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Access (DEIA) Office to develop and support programs which engage various academic institutions not usually associated with USAID programs. The goal is to develop USAID programs for Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) and help to develop recruitment strategies for underrepresented individuals to USAID, with a particular focus on faculty and students.

This academic year the department also welcomed two new faculty members. Ann Sanoji Samarakkody, assistant professor of biomedical sciences, started as a tenure track assistant professor in June 2023 and brings experience in cancer biology and molecular and cell biology. Paul Wolujewicz, assistant professor of biomedical sciences, joined the department in July 2023. With a doctorate from Cornell University and post-doctoral training at the Brain and Mind Research Institute of Weill Cornell Medical College, his background and training are in biophysics, neuroscience and computational genomics.

The biomedical sciences department also celebrated graduate and undergraduate students inducted into the Alpha Eta Honor Society, the Pathologists' Assistant program's seventh annual White Coat Ceremony, and two pathologists' assistant students being selected as student delegates and scholarship recipients for the AAPA Annual Continuing Education Conference.



### Social Work

This academic year, the social work department once again co-sponsored Lobby Day training for Connecticut undergraduate and graduate social workers at the Connecticut State Capitol on March 25, 2024. Faculty and staff also hosted a successful Social Work Month event, "Social Workers Empowering Youth through Restorative Justice Practice," which was attended by social workers across the state. CEUs were awarded to licensed social workers in attendance while Laura Mutrie was celebrated as the founding director of field education. Mutrie will be retiring this year.

The new Dual-Degree (4+2) was launched in spring 2024 while the Accelerated Dual-Degree (3+2) program continues to grow. In addition, the department has continued to award CT Health Horizons scholarships to eligible incoming MSW students. Building on this momentum, the department was also awarded an additional CT Health Horizons grant of approximately \$150,000. This grant supports an innovative program for intensive preparation for the LCSW exam, to provide employment readiness training across Connecticut, and to create an employment hiring fair, with an emphasis on supporting social workers who identify as being from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups.

Department faculty members continue to distinguish themselves through scholarship and publications and in the numerous ways they continue to impact social work across the state, region and nation. This year, the department also had six student inductees into the Alpha Eta Society: Shannon Hobbins, Harrison Pollack, Blair Sprosta, Grace Stickel, Katherine Tighe and Thayrone Veloso.



# Faculty Accolades & Accomplishments

## Department of Biomedical Sciences

### Dwayne Boucaud

*Professor of Biomedical Sciences*

**Grant:** Awarded a grant to work as a consultant for the U.S. Agency for International Development. The primary responsibility for this position will be to work with the USAID Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Access (DEIA) Office to develop and support programs which engage various academic institutions not usually associated with USAID programs. This primarily includes Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs).

### Jesse McCoy

*Clinical Assistant Professor & Clinical Coordinator for Pathologist Assistant Program*

**Presentation:** McCoy, J., Mendez-Kramer, V. "Pathologists' Assistants in Forensics." 2023 National Center on Forensics Conference, George Mason University, Manassas, VA. August 2023.

### Martine Mirrione

*Professor of Biomedical Sciences*

**Presentation:** International Conference Peer reviewed poster presentation: Mirrione, M. M., Ford, C., Witelock, C., Ronalter, K., Jones, K., Betz, A. J. (2023). "Microglia & Neuronal Dysfunction marker, PFKFB3, in Rodent Model of Chronic Unpredictable Stress." Society for Neuroscience, Virtual Component. November 2023.

**Grant:** Quinnipiac University, School of Health Sciences Faculty Grant "Antidepressant Effects of Deprenyl in Rodents with Learned Helplessness" \$5,000 supply budget over academic year.

### Shawna Reed

*Assistant Professor of Biomedical Sciences*

*Program Director, Medical Microbiology and Immunology*

**Publications:** Peer reviewed journal article: Alpha ETA = BMS graduate and undergraduate students inducted in Spring 2024.

### Paul Wolujewicz

*Assistant Professor of Biomedical Sciences*

**Publications:** Stankovic, I., Notaras, M., Wolujewicz, P., Lu, T., Lis, R., Ross, M. E., Colak, D. Schizophrenia endothelial cells exhibit higher permeability and altered angiogenesis patterns in patient-derived organoids. *Transl Psychiatry*. 2024 Jan 23; 14(1):53. doi: 10.1038/s41398-024-02740-2. PMID: 38263175; PMCID: PMC10806043.

Crane-Smith, Z., De Castro, S. C. P., Nikolopoulou, E., Wolujewicz, P., Smedley, D., Lei, Y., Mather, E., Santos, C., Hopkinson, M., Pitsillides, A. A.; Genomics England Research Consortium; Finnell, R. H., Ross, M. E., Copp, A. J., Greene, N. D. E. A non-coding insertional mutation of *Grhl2* causes gene over-expression and multiple structural anomalies including cleft palate, spina bifida and encephalocele. *Hum Mol Genet*. 2023 Aug 26; 32(17):2681-2692. doi: 10.1093/hmg/ddad094. PMID: 37364051; PMCID: PMC10460492.

**Presentations:** Gribbin, J., Wolujewicz, P., Soda, K. J. X Chromosome Analysis in Multiple Sclerosis for Identification of Genes Implicated in Female-biased Disease Presentation. American Academy of Neurology (AAN), Denver, CO. April 2024.

## Department of Diagnostic Imaging

### Alicia Giaimo

*Clinical Professor of Diagnostic Imaging*

**Presentations:** "Mistakes in the lab: Are they really mistakes?" Association of Educators in Imaging and Radiologic Sciences (AEIRS) Annual Conference in July 2023.

"Caring for Breast Cancer Patients: Diversity, Navigation and Healthcare Professional as Patient." Connecticut Society of Radiologic Technologists (CSRT) New England Partners Webinar, July 2023.

"Patient Bone Health." Invited presentation for American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) Recorded Live Series on Bone Densitometry for continuing education credits.

**Awards:** Recipient, AuntMinnie.com's Minnie's 2023 Most Effective Radiologic Sciences Educator, Semifinals Candidate, August 2023

### Bernadette Mele

*Clinical Professor of Diagnostic Imaging*

*Chair of Diagnostic Imaging*

*Director of Radiologist Assistant Program*

**Awards:** James Marshall Award Recipient- 2024

Recipient, AuntMinnie.com's Minnie's 2023 Most Effective Radiologic Technologist Educator, Semifinals Candidate, August 2023

**Service:** American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) Educator Institute.

Member, Practice Standards Council Magnetic Resonance Subcommittee. June 2023.

Member, Committee on RT Advocacy Region 9 Subcommittee. June 2023.

Connecticut Society of Radiologic Technologists (CSRT)– Co-Chair and Representative to the Speaker of the House.

#### **Kori Stewart**

*Associate Professor of Diagnostic Imaging*

**Awards:** Recipient, ASRT Foundation's Advancing Your Profession: Education and Professional Growth Grant, October 2023

Recipient, Connecticut Society of Radiologic Technologists' (CSRT) Technologist Achievement Award, in recognition of demonstration of superior leadership, advocacy and educational promotion, September 2023

Recipient, Connecticut Society of Radiologic Technologists' (CSRT) John Archer Award for outstanding service and commitment to the CSRT and significant impact on the profession of Radiologic Technology, September 2023

Recipient, AuntMinnie.com's Minnie's 2023 Most Effective Radiologic Technologist Educator, Semifinals Candidate, August 2023

**Peer-Reviewed Presentations:** Empowering Educators to Embrace and Expound on Informatics. Invited lecture for the Atlanta Society of Radiologic Technologists Student, Radiographer and Educators Conference, Atlanta, GA, March 2024.

Contrast Media in Medical Imaging. Invited lecture for the Atlanta Society of Radiologic Technologists Student, Radiographer and Educators Conference, Atlanta, GA, March 2024.

Artificial Intelligence in Radiology: Will We Teach Robots Soon Too? Invited lecture for the Atlanta Society of Radiologic Technologists Student, Radiographer and Educators Conference, Atlanta, GA, March 2024.

Empowering Educators to Embrace and Expound on Informatics. Invited lecture for the Association of Collegiate Educators in Radiologic Technology Annual Conference, Las Vegas, NV, February 2024.

Contrast Media in Medical Imaging. Invited lecture presented at the 2023 Connecticut Society of Radiologic Technologists Annual Conference, Wethersfield, CT, September 2023.

Imaging Informatics' Impact on Patient Care Across the Modalities. Invited lecture for the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT), August 2023.

**Peer-Reviewed Publications:** Stewart, K. (June 12, 2023). Predictive Modeling and Analyses of National Emergency Department Data for Improving Patient Outcomes of Nephrolithiasis. *Cureus Journal of Medical Science*, Springer Nature Medical Publishing 15(6):e40297. doi:10.7759/cureus.40297

Adler, A., Carlton, R., Stewart, K. (2023). *Introduction to Radiologic and Imaging Sciences and Patient Care*. 8th ed. New York, NY: Elsevier.

**Service:** Elected to the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) Education Chapter as Delegate, 2024–2025 & Education Chapter Chair and Delegate, 2025–2026

American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) Educator Institute, May 2023–September 2023

American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) Editorial Review Board Member, 2023–2026

American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) Education Chapter, Alternate Delegate for 2023–2024

Association of Educators in Imaging and Radiologic Sciences (AEIRS) Board of Directors, President-Elect for 2023–2024, President for 2024–2025 and Chair of the Board for 2025–2026

American Board of Imaging Informatics, Specialty Task Force Member, January 2023 to present

#### **Pauline Rocha**

*Clinical Assistant Professor of Diagnostic Imaging*

*Director of Clinical Education – Radiologic Sciences*

**Professional Development:** Promotion to Clinical Associate Professor

**Service:** QU Radiologic Sciences Program faculty facilitator for 2024 CSRT College Bowl Champions

**Professional Contributions:** 4th CVAMS International Scientific and Cultural Exchange-Praia, Santiago Cabo Verde, Islands

**Presentations:** Rocha, P. (4/22/2024). Normal Female Breast Anatomy. CVAMS/RADAID International Breast Conference. April 2024.

Rocha, P. (4/22/2024). Breast Ultrasound Scanning Techniques. CVAMS/RADAID International Breast Conference. April 2024.

Co-Trainer: Rocha, P., Weinberg, S., MD., Sobolewski, R., MD., Pflum, A., MD., McCune, A. (4/22/2024). Hands-on workshop: Breast Ultrasound and Biopsy Techniques.

Co-Assistant: Rocha, P., Weinberg, S., MD., Sobolewski, R., MD., Pflum, A., MD., McCune, A. (4/23/2024). Live patient Breast Ultrasound Biopsy. April 2024.

#### **Paula DeMaio**

*Clinical Assistant Professor of Diagnostic Imaging*

*Program Director of Advanced Medical Imaging and Leadership*

**Presentations:** Integrated Breast Seminar. Interprofessional seminar with the School of Medicine to explore the various breast imaging modalities. January 2024.

Navigating Breast Cancer Diagnosis. Interprofessional Education Event at Quinnipiac

University. Event was held twice in the 2023–24 academic year (Fall and Spring).

### **Tania Grgurich**

*Clinical Professor of Diagnostic Imaging*

**Presentations:** Living Kidney Donation and Imaging's Role in Screening Prospective Donors. Presented at the Connecticut Society of Radiologic Technologists Annual Meeting, Wethersfield, CT. September 16, 2023.

Radiologic Investigation of the Deceased. Presented via teleconference for Cranfield University, United Kingdom. January 31, 2024.

Adventures in Forensic Imaging. Presented to radiography students at Middlesex Community College. April 26, 2024.

**Awards:** Recipient, Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce Healthcare Warrior Award, April 2024

Recipient, Quinnipiac University School of Health Sciences Superhero Award, May 2024

American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) Educator Institute, April 2024 – September 2024

## **Department of Health Science and Department of Rehabilitation, Health and Wellness**

### **Stephen Straub**

*Professor of Athletic Training & Sports Medicine*

*Chair of Rehabilitation, Health and Wellness*

*Director of Academic Operations*

*Professor of Health Science Studies*

*Program Director of Athletic Training*

**Service:** President, Connecticut Athletic Trainers' Association (CATA)

CATA representative to Connecticut State Medical Society – Medical Aspects of Sports

### **Susan Norkus**

*Professor of Athletic Training & Sports Medicine*

*Associate Chair of Athletic Training & Sports Medicine*

*Interim Chair of Health Science Studies*

*Professor of Health Science Studies*

**Service:** Convention Program Committee Member, Eastern Athletic Trainers' Association

### **Maria Cusson and Susan Norkus**

*Clinical Associate Professor of Physical Therapy and*

*Professor of Health Science Studies*

**Presentation:** Cusson, M., Norkus, S., Courtman, J., Jonas, M. Virtual Communities of Practice for Physical Therapy Students. 2023 APTA Educational Leadership Conference, Philadelphia, PA. October 2023.

### **Dana White**

*Clinical Professor of Athletic Training & Sports Medicine*

*Clinical Associate Professor of Health Science Studies*

*Sports Dietician*

**Presentation:** "Fueling Athletes: Discussion of the Newly Published Inter-Association Consensus Statement on Sports Nutrition Models," for the Far West Athletic Trainers' Association Annual Meeting and Clinical Symposium, July 11–15, 2023.

**Service:** National Liaison between the National Athletic Trainers' Association and the Sports and Human Performance Nutrition, a dietetic practice group of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

### **Meghan Lewis**

*Clinical Professor & Lab Coord. of Athletic Training & Sports Medicine*

*Clinical Associate Professor of Health Science Studies*

*Coordinator of Clinical Education – Athletic Training*

**Service:** Education Advancement Committee, National Athletic Trainers' Association

## **Department of Occupational Therapy**

### **Anna Norene Carlson**

*Clinical Associate Professor of Occupational Therapy*

**Presentations:** Carlson, A. & Maignan, C. (March 2024). The Development of an occupation-based program for mothers experiencing mental illness and addiction living in transitional housing. AOTA Inspire Conference, Orlando, FL.

Rahe, T. & Carlson, A. (March 2024). The perspectives of professional caregivers in facilitating meaningful activity among persons living with dementia. AOTA Inspire Conference, Orlando, FL.

Sudrla, S., Smith, M., Cannata, A. & Carlson, A. (March 2024). Guidebook for occupational therapy in end-of-life care. AOTA Inspire, Orlando, FL.

Carlson, A., Smith, B., Amexas, P., Bossone, G., Charette, J., Hall, S., Norton, S., Ortzmn, P., Knudson, T., & Remy, L. (March 2024). An occupational therapy approach for community reintegration with individuals who were previously incarcerated and experiencing homelessness. AOTA Inspire, Orlando, FL.

Woolridge, K. & Carlson, A. (March 2024). Examining the needs and experiences of justice-involved mothers as they resume parenting roles post incarceration. AOTA Inspire, Orlando, FL.

Nelson, C. & Carlson, A. (March 2024). OT's holistic approach to pediatric incontinence across practice Settings. (Short Course). AOTA Inspire, Orlando, FL.

Carlson, A., Balch, B., Gilarde, A., Goodrich, E., Harrison, C., Jacullo, G., Knudson, T., Mottola, A., & Wagner, E. (March 2024). Meeting the functional and leisure needs of persons experiencing homelessness during an emerging level II fieldwork: A pilot program. AOTA Inspire, Orlando, FL.

**Grants:** Inclusive Excellence Transformational Grant, OT program development for the homeless and near homeless, \$1,000.



**Service:** St. Vincent de Paul, Board of Directors & Co-Chair Program Development Committee

#### **Nicole Fidanza**

*Promoted to Clinical Associate Professor of Occupational Therapy*

**Publications:** Fidanza, N. A. (2024). Promoting Social Health: Older Adults. In M. A. Pizzi & M. Amir (Eds.), *Interprofessional Perspectives for Community Practice* (pp.123–138). SLACK.

**Presentations:** Fidanza, N.; Rzepka, D., & Basso, J. (2023, June). Opportunity to thrive: A community-based program for frailty in senior housing (presentation). AOTA Specialty Conference: Connecting Community & Occupational Therapy, Virtual.

Fidanza, N.; Wescott, J., Samson, A.; & McConnell, M. (2024, March). Exploring the impact of an academic/community partnership in senior housing (presentation). ConnOTA Spring 2024 Conference, Virtual.

Fidanza, N.; Cruz, M.; Harrison, C.; Landau, C., & McDonald, S. (2024, March). Using data analytics to guide fall prevention initiatives in a senior housing project (poster). AOTA Inspire 2024, Orlando, FL.

**Service:** The Towers at Tower Lane, Residents Service Committee Member

#### **Tara Glennon**

*Professor of Occupational Therapy*

**Publications:** Kuhaneck, H. M., Watling, R., & Glennon, T. J. (2023). Ayres' Sensory Integration® for Addressing Play in Autistic Children: A Multiple Baseline Examination. *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 77(2), 7702205080. <https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2023.050169>

**Presentations:** Carter, L., & Glennon, T. J. (April 2023). Adverse childhood experiences (ACE) screening and primitive reflexes: OTP knowledge

base and practice patterns. American Occupational Therapy Association Annual Conference – Inspire 2023, Kansas City, MO.

Molinari, A., & Glennon, T. J. (April 2023). Kindergarten learning standards in New York state: Perceptions and knowledge base of occupational therapy practitioners and teachers. American Occupational Therapy Association Annual Conference – Inspire 2023, Kansas City, MO.

Jimkelly, M., & Glennon, T. J. (April 2023). Push-in model for elementary school-based OT: OTP perceptions and knowledge base. American Occupational Therapy Association Annual Conference – Inspire 2023, Kansas City, MO.

**Service:** CT Occupational Therapy Association (ConnOTA): Special Interest Section Liaison for Reimbursement, Administration, and Management

**Awards:** American Journal of Occupational Therapy (AJOT): 2023 Outstanding Reviewer Award

#### **Donna Latella**

*Professor of Occupational Therapy*

**Publications:** Latella, D., & Abrams, B. (2024). The Role of the Equine in Animal-Assisted Interactions. In *The Handbook on Animal-Assisted Therapy: Guidelines for Animal-Assisted Interventions*. (6th ed.) Academic Press.

**Presentations:** Latella, D., Berluti, N., DiGuilio, L., Doyle, L., Healy, C., Lane, M., Goodrich, E., Nedza, S., & Postiglione, S. (2024). Understanding the Effects of Human Animal Interaction Therapy on the Stress Levels of Occupational Therapy Students. AOTA Inspire Conference: Orlando, FL.

Latella, K., & Latella, D. (March 2024). Nature-Based Therapy and Occupational Therapy: An Emerging Practice. AOTA Inspire: Orlando, FL.

**Service:** Horses and Humans Research Foundations: Scientific Research Committee

#### **Karen Majeski**

*Promoted to Associate Professor of Occupational Therapy*

**Publications:** Yagud, K., & Majeski, K. (2023). School administrators' perceptions of occupational therapy's role in general education initiatives. *Journal of Occupational Therapy, Schools, & Early Intervention*, 1–15. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19411243.2023.2277787>

Sica, M., Majeski, K., & Majeski, A. (2023). Impact of COVID-19 on Mental Health Amongst Rehabilitation Health Professionals. *Journal of Allied Health*, 52(3), 234–238.

Fiori, L., & Majeski, K. (2024). Perceptions Regarding Hand Therapy Content in Entry-level Occupational Therapy Programs. *Journal of Occupational Therapy Education*, 8 (1), 1–23.

**Presentations:** Majeski, K., Sica, M., & Majeski, A. (2023). Impact of COVID-19 on Mental Health Amongst Rehabilitation Health Professionals: Management Decisions. (Poster) Association of Schools Advancing Health Professions, Fort Lauderdale, FL.

Carroll, T., Majeski, K., Hollenbeck, J., Stock, T., Schwind, D. & Chris Trujillo (2024). Utilizing the evidence-based predictors of postschool success in OT with children & youth. (Workshop) AOTA Inspire. Orlando, FL.

Mydland, R., & Majeski, K. (2024). Examining the lived experiences of parents caring for their infant who has undergone cardiac surgery or procedures from birth to 18 months of life. (Poster) AOTA Inspire. Orlando, FL.

Majeski, K., Carlson, T., & Cleary, D. (2024). The transition to adulthood for individuals with IDD: How occupational therapy capstone students can help bridge the gap. (Conversations that Matter) AOTA Inspire. Orlando, FL.

Majeski, K., Azzopardi, B., Katz, G., Weiss, A., & Yaeger, M. (2023). Perceptions of executive functioning group interventions for postsecondary transition students. (Poster): AOTA Inspire. Kansas City, MI.

Garrison, W., & Majeski, K. (2023). Teacher perceptions of facilitators and barriers to a child's ability to regulate behavior for learning. (Poster) AOTA Inspire. Kansas City, MI.

**Service:** CT Occupational Therapy Association (ConnOTA): Special Interest Section Liaison for Assistive Technology

The Connecticut Community Empowerment Foundation: Vice-Chair

American Occupational Therapy Association Transition Community of Practice Co-Facilitator

**Awards:** Quinnipiac Community Development Award 2024

#### **Catherine Meriano**

*Professor of Occupational Therapy*

**Service:** National AARP Safe Driving Advisory Group Member

National NICHE reviewer

State of CT AARP Safe Driving instructor

#### **Barbara Nadeau**

*Clinical Professor of Occupational Therapy*

**Presentations:** Decker, J. & Nadeau, B. (March 2024). Exploring the impact of stroke on health management among individuals experiencing healthcare disparities. (Poster). AOTA Inspire, Orlando, FL.

Hambrose, M. & Nadeau, B. (March 2024). Finding occupational coherence after stroke: A grounded theory. (Poster). AOTA Inspire, Orlando, FL.

Zock, M. & Nadeau, B. (April 2023). Perceptions of occupational therapy practitioners regarding the way they use therapeutic use of self with clients versus fieldwork students. AOTA Inspire Conference (Poster), Kansas City, MO.

Taylor, C. & Nadeau, B. (April 2023). Outpatient OT perceptions, attitudes & motivations surrounding the treatment of the neurological upper extremity. AOTA Inspire Conference (Poster), Kansas City, MO.

**Service:** AOTA New Educators Mentor Program: Mentor

Brain Injury Alliance of CT – Support Group Facilitator

**Awards:** Catherine Bontke Memorial Award, Brain Injury Alliance of CT

#### **Deanna Proulx**

*Clinical Professor of Occupational Therapy*

**Presentations:** Basso, J., Latella, D. & Proulx, D. (2024). Poster: Efficacy of self-regulated learning modules using virtual resource in MOT instruction of functional anatomy and kinesiology. American Occupational Therapy Inspire Conference 2024. Quinnipiac University. Orlando, FL.

**Service:** Board Appointed position to the Volunteer Leadership Development Committee of the American Occupational Therapy Association.

#### **Martha Sanders**

*Professor of Occupational Therapy*

**Publications:** Sanders, M. J. (2023). Feasibility of a circadian lighting intervention to promote sleep in college students. *Proceedings of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society* 67(1), 2228-2232. <https://doi.org/10.1177/21695067231192196>

Sanders, M., Figueiro, M., Thayer, A., Muzzio, A., Cicero, K., DeMarco, T., Barnaba, S., & Bowerman, L. (2023). Circadian Lighting: OT opportunities for overall health, *OT Practice*, 1, 10-13.

**Presentations:** Sanders, M., Gougler, O., & Rich, K. (2024, March). Zoom fatigue in college students. American Occupational Therapy Association, Orlando, FL.

Sanders, M. (October 2023). Feasibility of a circadian lighting intervention to promote sleep in college students. Human Factors and Ergonomics Society, Washington, D.C.

Sanders, M., Muzzio, A., Cicero, K., DeMarco, T., Barnaba, S., Bowerman, L. (April 2023). The impact of a circadian lighting intervention on sleep, mood, & engagement: Two case studies, American Occupational Therapy Association, Kansas City, MO.

**Service:** WORK: A Journal of Prevention, Assessment, and Rehabilitation Editorial Board member

TV Media. January 6, Channel 3, News Interview, Tips for Proper Shoveling

American Journal of Occupational Therapy Editorial Board

**Grants:** Provost Grant, 2023. \$5,000. The Impact of Circadian Lighting on Sleep, Mood, and Productivity in College Students.

#### **Valerie Strange**

*Promoted to Clinical Professor of Occupational Therapy*

**Presentations:** Strange, V., Balch, B., Huang, C., Disman, M., & Dynice, B. (March 2024). Perceived impact of short-term international experiences on personal & professional beliefs of healthcare practitioners: A longitudinal study. (Poster) AOTA INSPIRE. Orlando, FL.

Strange, V. & Clark, A. (March 2024). Effectiveness of a vocational training program on the work readiness of adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. (Poster) AOTA INSPIRE 2024. Orlando, FL.

Strange, V. & Sobol, V. (March 2024). People with intellectual and developmental disabilities seeking social inclusion: A promising role for occupational therapy at an organizational level. AOTA INSPIRE. Orlando, FL.

Booth, J., & Strange, V. (2023). Transitions for children and youth using an interprofessional conference-style collaboration to explore complex health-care needs at pivotal points of service. *Interprofessional Care for the 21st Century*. Thomas Jefferson University. Philadelphia, PA.

Strange, V., Cantwell, C., Eichman, L., Garcia, C., & Mandara, A. (April 2023). Manualizing a work training program for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities working in an integrated employment setting. American Occupational Therapy Association National Conference in Kansas City, MO.

Strange, V., Hubbard, B., Miner, A., Trahan, E., & Weinrich, A. (April 2023). Reciprocal partnerships in Guatemala: An interprofessional reflection on community-based global learning. American Occupational Therapy Association National Conference in Kansas City, MO.

**Service:** Best Buddies CT Chapter, Advisory Board Member

**Awards:** Distinguished Fellow of the National Academy of Practice in Occupational Therapy, 2024

#### **Michelle Tarantino**

*Clinical Assistant Professor of Occupational Therapy*

**Presentations:** Sanders, M., & Tarantino, M. (March 2024). Lighting design for safety and function in older adults workshop, American Occupational Therapy Association, Orlando, FL.

#### **Roseanna Tufano**

*Clinical Professor of Occupational Therapy*

**Presentations:** Tufano, R., Mathew, J., Neto, A., Velie, P. & Zito, K. (2024). Actualizing Professional Identity Through Transformative Learning. Inclusive Excellence Summer Assembly, Quinnipiac University.

**Awards:** Inaugural Bruce Saulnier Forum on 4/2024 (SoTL Award Recipient in 2023)

#### **Tracy Van Oss**

*Clinical Professor of Occupational Therapy*

**Presentations:** Van Oss, T., Velie, P., Morgan, M., Wood, M., D'Amicantonio, S., & Sawyer, M. (2023). Occupational Therapy's Role in Technological Health Promotion (Poster). Connecticut Public Health Association, Plainville, CT.

Van Oss, T., & Biedrzycki, N. (2023). Occupational therapy's evolving role with college students. Association of Caribbean Occupational Therapists (ACOT). Virtual.

Van Oss, T., VanOss, J., Biedrzycki, N., Bogardus, J. (2023). Using photovoice with the CHAMPS initiative: Creating health attitudes in medical professionals. International Society of Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (ISSOTL), (Poster). Utrecht, Netherlands.

Van Oss, T., Baird, J., Zapletal, A., Prast, J., & Hoppe, M. (2023). Multi-institutional collaboration to promote SoTL through simulation. International Society of Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (ISSOTL), (Poster). Utrecht, Netherlands.

**Service:** Award committee chair for CT Public Health Association

Academic Advisory Council CT Public Health Association

Rehabilitation Affinity group: Co-founder 2023 for the Society of Simulation in Healthcare (SSH)

CT Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Network Advisory Committee

American Occupational Therapy Association SIS Home and Community Health Co-Editor

Connecticut Occupational Therapy Association SIS Productive Aging Chair

**Awards:** Saulnier Family Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SOTL) Faculty Award 2023

Quinnipiac Faculty Affairs Fellowship, 2024

#### **Elizabeth Wescott**

*Clinical Associate Professor of Occupational Therapy*

**Presentations:** Wescott, E., Aquino, V., Barkan, S., Dulak, L., Martin, T. (March 2024). Role of OT in Concussion Management: An Interactive Learning Approach to Concussion Education Through Use of an Escape Room, (Poster). AOTA INSPIRE, Orlando, FL.

**Service:** LOF Adaptive Skiers Board of Directors and Volunteer

Connecticut Occupational Therapy Association SIS Rehabilitation, Disability, and Participation

Brain Injury Alliance of CT conference committee member

#### **Department of Physical Therapy**

##### **Karen Blood**

*Promoted to Clinical Associate Professor of Physical Therapy*

**Presentation:** Chesbro, S., Norris, T., Blood, K., Furze, J., Rowe, R., Engelhard, C. (2024). Leveraging Collaboration to Achieve the Aims of a Vision for Excellence in Physical Therapy Education. APTA Combined Sections Meeting. Boston, MA.

**Poster Presentations:** Blood, K., Adams, M., Reigel, K., Reyes, A., Vargo, S. (2023). Effects of Gratitude Journaling on Burnout and Perceived Stress Levels in First- and Second Year Doctor of Physical Therapy



Students. APTA CT Annual Fall Conference. Quinnipiac University. North Haven, CT.

Mierzwicki, J., Blood, K. (2024). Curriculum and Geriatric Competencies in Entry-Level DPT Programs in the United States. APTA Combined Sections Meeting. Boston, MA.

**Service:** American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties: Committee of Content Expert (Geriatrics)

Academy of Geriatric Physical Therapy: Academic Education Committee, Chair

APTA CT: Geriatric SIG co-chair

### **Julie Booth**

*Clinical Associate Professor of Physical Therapy*

**Presentations:** Booth, J., Grandich, S., Holland, K., O'Shea, E. The Use of Community-Based Global Learning Framework for Ethical Engagement. American Physical Therapy Association Combined Sections Annual Conference-Poster. Boston, MA. February 2024.

Broggi, M., Booth, J. Use of Co-Curricular Activities to Support Pediatric Education. American Physical Therapy Annual Pediatric Conference-Practice Fair-Presentation. Omaha, NE. October 2023.

Strange, V., Booth, J.; Transitions for Children and Youth Using an Interprofessional Conference-Style Collaboration to Explore Complex Healthcare Needs at Pivotal Points of Service. Thomas Jefferson Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education Conference- Presentation. Philadelphia, PA. October 2023.

Booth, J., Lampron, E., Blum, A., Crosby, R., Criscenzo, K., Marzano, E. Needs assessment, feasibility, and initiation of inclusive fitness programming at Quinnipiac University. Move United Education Conference-Poster. Louisville, KY. May 2023.

**Service:** Member of the Academic committee for Faculté des Sciences de Réhabilitation de Léogâne, Episcopal University of Haiti

Member of the Connecticut Physical Therapy Association Pediatric SIG Planning Committee

Medical Classifier for Paralympic Swimming, U.S. Paralympics, Clinical director for Special Olympics FUNFitness

**Award:** Honored as a Distinguished Fellow of the National Academies of Practice with recognition as a leader in both physical therapy and interprofessional care.

### **Michelle Broggi**

*Clinical Associate Professor of Physical Therapy*

*Director of Undergraduate Studies*

**Presentation:** Broggi, M., Booth, J. Use of Co-Curricular Activities to Support Pediatric Education. APTA Pediatrics Annual Conference, Omaha, NE. November 2023.

### **Juan Garbalosa**

*Clinical Professor of Physical Therapy*

*Director, Motion Analysis Laboratory*

**Presentation:** Reilly, K. A., Feinn, R., Garbalosa, J. C. Impact of a neurocognitive load on lower limb coordination and variability during a single leg task. American College of Sports Medicine Annual Meeting, Denver, CO. June 2023.

### **Kate Grevelding**

*Promoted to Associate Professor of Physical Therapy*

**Presentations:** Helgren, M., Grevelding, K. (2024) @TheTable- Please Join Us. American Association for Anatomy (AAA) Annual Conference: Anatomy Connected 2024. Toronto, ON. March 22–25, 2024.

Grevelding, K., Helgren, M. (June 2023). Connections and Collaborations: An Interprofessional Education

(IPE) Workshop. TolTech User Meeting at Quinnipiac University.

**Poster Presentation:** Grevelding, K., Andrade, S., Cote, K., Genna, S. (2024). Stakeholder Perceptions of Interprofessional Education and Anatomy: Considerations for Future Implementation. American Association for Anatomy (AAA) Annual Conference: Anatomy Connected 2024. Toronto, ON. March 22–25, 2024.

**Grant:** SHS Grant 2023–2024 “Student Stakeholder Perceptions of the Physical Therapy Foundations of Clinical Science (PT-FCS) Summative Exam.” Funding Dates July 1, 2023–June 2024. Funded amount \$3,499.

**Service:** Member of the APTA Anatomy Educators Special Interest Group (SIG) and working in the Curriculum Taskforce to develop anatomy education core competencies.

### **Kate Grevelding and Ken Kosior**

*Promoted to Associate Professor of Physical Therapy & Associate Professor of Physical Therapy*

**Publication:** Grevelding, K., Kosior, K. Utilization of Summative Assessment in Physical Therapy Education to Establish Foundations of Clinical Science Knowledge. The Internet Journal of Allied Health Sciences and Practice. 2023 Jun 29;21(3), Article 19.

### **Ken Kosior**

*Promoted to Associate Professor of Physical Therapy*

*Department Chair*

**Publications:** North, S., Kosior, K. et al (Dec. 2023). “Excellence in Academic Physical Therapy: Promoting a Culture of Data Sharing.” Journal of Physical Therapy Education 37(S1): p 1–9.

**Service:** ARC of Greater New Haven, Inc. Board of Directors & Vice President.

ACAPT Data Advisory Committee Member.

**Ken Kosior & Tracy Wall**

*Associate Professor of Physical Therapy & Clinical Professor of Physical Therapy*

**Presentations:** Kosior, K., Wall, T. Culture of Assessment in a Doctor of Physical Therapy Program; Part I: Creating a Culture of Assessment, APTA Educational Leadership Conference, Philadelphia, PA. October 2023.

**Erin Lampron**

*Promoted to Clinical Associate Professor of Physical Therapy*

**Presentations:** Rhode, M., Lampron, E., Phillips, R., Schaumberg, E. Responsive Teaching and Coaching: Importance of A Trauma Informed Approach to Student Wellness. Combined Sections Meeting: American Physical Therapy Association, Boston, MA. February 15, 2024.

Romney, W., Oberlander, A., Lampron, E. Putting Patients Back in the Driver's Seat: OPTIMAL Practice Conditions to Enhance Patient Performance. Academy of Neurologic Physical Therapy Annual Conference, Minneapolis, MN. September 29, 2023.

Garg, H., Phillips, R., Lampron, E., Nordahl, T. DEI in Practice: A Conversation with Professionals. Academy of Neurologic Physical Therapy Annual Conference, Minneapolis, MN. September 30, 2023.

Armstrong, N., Stamm, H., Simaitis, L., Lampron, E., Gromisch, E., Ruiz, J., DelMastro, H. Criterion Validity of the Five Times Sit-to-Stand Via Telehealth in Multiple Sclerosis. Academy of Neurologic Physical Therapy Annual Conference accepted poster, Minneapolis, MN. September 30, 2023.

Blum, A., Criscenzo, K., Crosby, R., Marzano, E., Wu, M., Booth, J., Lampron, E. Needs Assessment, Feasibility, and Initiation of Inclusive Fitness Programming at Quinnipiac University. Move United

Education Conference accepted poster, Louisville, KY. May 16–17, 2023.

**Service:** Academy of Neurologic Physical Therapy – Co-chair Annual Conference Committee

Academy of Neurologic Physical Therapy – Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee member

Connecticut Chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association – Co-Chair Neurology Special Interest Group

**Rachel Pata**

*Clinical Professor of Physical Therapy*

**Publication:** Pata, R. W., O'Sullivan, S., Peterson, D., Superchi, L., Feinn, R. Simulation-Based Cardiopulmonary Examination Skills Checklist: Assessment of Inter-Rater Reliability. *Cardiopulm. Phys. Ther.* Accepted March 2024.

Pata, R. W., Leigh, A., Hadtke, B., Diem, G., Feinn, R., White, D. Licensed Physical Therapists' Preparation, Comfort in and Frequency of Providing Nutrition Related Patient Education. *Am. J. Lifestyle Med.* 2023 August. doi:10.1177/15598276231200848

**Presentation:** Pata, R. W., Kappus, L. Debriefing: A Key Component of Learning in Healthcare Education and Clinical Practice. Oral Presentation at: APTA Connecticut Annual Conference; October 2023: Hamden, CT.

**Service:** APTA CT Board of Directors, Director at Large

**Dawn Roller**

*Clinical Assistant Professor of Physical Therapy  
Associate Director of Clinical Education*

**Service:** New England Consortium of Clinical Educators, Clinical Faculty Institute planning committee co-chair

**Sarah Ferrero, Dawn Roller, Ken Kosior, and Tracy Wall**

*Clinical Associate Professor of Physical Therapy, Clinical Assistant Professor of Physical Therapy, Assistant Professor of Physical Therapy, & Clinical Professor of Physical Therapy*

**Presentation:** Culture of Assessment in a Doctor of Physical Therapy Program Part II: Implementation and Living the Culture. Education Leadership Conference (ELC) of the APTA, Philadelphia, PA. 2023.

**Laura Simaitis**

*Assistant Professor of Physical Therapy*

**Publications:** Simaitis, L., Kupczynski, L., Gibson, A.M. (2024). Prioritizing and measuring social awareness within cultural competence education: An act to mitigate health disparities. *International Journal of Advanced Academic Studies*, 6(2), 40–51. <https://doi.org/10.33545/27068919.2024.v6.i2a.1115>

DelMastro, H. M., Simaitis, L. B., Gromisch, E. S., Gomes, K., Ruiz, J. A. (2023). Establishment of regression-based normative isometric strength values for major lower limb muscle groups in persons with multiple sclerosis. *Multiple Sclerosis and Related Disorders*, 75. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.msard.2023.104772>

**Presentations:** APTA, CSM poster presentation, Boston, MA, February 2024. Five time sit to stand test predicting fall risk in multiple sclerosis, a preliminary study.

APTA, CSM poster presentation, Boston, MA, February 2024. Dominant upper limb active range of motion reference values for persons with multiple sclerosis.

World Congress on Education, Toronto, Canada, June 2023, Social Awareness within Cultural Competence Education among Doctor of Physical Therapy Students.



**Grants:** Predicting Fall Risk in Persons with Multiple Sclerosis Using the Five Time Sit to Stand Test, QU SHS Grant \$2,700. July 1, 2023–June 30, 2024.

**Service:** APTA CT: Neurologic SIG, Education and Quality Co-Chairperson

APTA CT: Nominating Committee Chair (2023 only)

## Department of Physician Assistant Studies

### Brennan Bowker

*Adjunct Clinical Assistant Professor*

**Presentations:** Bowker, B., Simmons, E. Hernia today, gone tomorrow. CME Presentation at the Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants Conference. Mystic, CT. March 2024.

**Poster Presentations:** Brophy, J., Bowker, B. Group A Toxic Shock Syndrome with an Unknown Portal of Entry. Poster presented at the Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants Conference. Mystic, CT. March 2024.

Messina, A., Foster, R., Bowker, B., Piperidis, S. Phlegmasia cerulea dolens in a young patient with COVID-19. Poster presented at the American Academy of Physician Assistants National Conference. Nashville, TN. May 2023.

Halloran, C., Bowker, B. Endometriosis of The Distal Ileum Resulting In Small Bowel Obstruction. Poster presented at the American Academy of Physician Assistants National Conference. Nashville, TN. May 2023.

Schweiss, A., Bowker, B., Lukaszweicz, M. Canal of Nuck Cyst. Poster presented at the American Academy of Physician Assistants National Conference. Nashville, TN. May 2023.

Cote, H., Bowker, B., Quintanilla, V., Gottlieb, L., Lukaszweicz, M. Purple Bag Syndrome. Poster presented at the American Academy of Physician

Assistants National Conference. Nashville, TN. May 2023.

**Non-peer reviewed presentations:** Shattered Trust: Exposing the Reality of Medical Gaslighting: My Personal Story. Quinnipiac University Honors Program, April 2024.

The PA/Surgeon Team, Quinnipiac University, April 2024.

Practicing PA Speakers Night. Quinnipiac University, Pre-Physician Assistant Club. September 2023.

**CME Event Coordinator:** APP Preceptor Bootcamp, course developer and coordinator, Yale New Haven Hospital, August 2023.

**Awards:** Patient Experience Award, Yale New Haven Hospital, November 2023

Member of the Month, American Association of Surgical Physician Assistants, June 2023

**Service:** Board Member, Connecticut Physician Assistant Foundation

### Dennis Brown

*Clinical Associate Professor*

**Service:** Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant Ad-hoc Committee/Focus Group for Standards Revision, Connecticut Physician Assistant Foundation Board

### Timothy Ferrarotti

*Clinical Assistant Professor*

**Service:** Site Visitor, Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant

### Sheree Piperidis

*Clinical Professor*

**Presentation:** Montoni, S., Piperidis, S. Papular purpuric glove and sock syndrome associated with Epstein Barr virus. Poster presented at the

Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants Conference. Mystic, CT. March 2024.

### Cindy Rossi

*Clinical Professor*

**Presentation:** Rouleau, C. J., Rossi, C. M. Delayed presentation of acute traumatic gluteal compartment syndrome with severe rhabdomyolysis post-fall. Poster presented at: American Academy of Physician Associates Conference. Nashville, TN. May 20–24, 2023.

## Department of Social Work

### Carol Awasu

*Professor of Social Work*

*Chair of Social Work*

*Director of the Master's in Social Work Program*

**Grant:** Led the CT Health Horizons Innovative Project grant funded \$149,844, for a project to prepare licensed clinical social work examination preparation and job readiness for chiefly Black and Brown social workers in CT.

### Maya Doyle

*Promoted to Professor of Social Work*

**Presentations:** Anand, R.; Longley, P.; Doyle, M. (October 23). Creating a relationship-centered interprofessional leadership development program using design thinking. JCIPE2023: Interprofessional Care for the 21st Century, Philadelphia, PA, Thomas Jefferson University.

Doyle, M. & Meschke, C. (May 2024). Mental health across the lifespan with rare and chronic disease: a focus on medical trauma. Cystinosis Symposium: A Rare Disease Model for Comprehensive Care. Cystinosis Research Network. New York Academy of Medicine, NY.

**Amber Kelly**

*Promoted to Professor of Social Work*

**Publications:** Greenwald, A., Kelly, A., Mathew, T., & Thomas, L. (2023). Trauma-informed care in the emergency department: concepts and recommendations for integrating practices into emergency medicine. *Medical Education Online*, 28(1), 2178366.

**Presentations:** Kelly, A. (June 23, 2024). Sex work, drug use, and harm reduction: Co-creating belonging and agency through the intersubjective third made possible by the Sex Workers and Allies Network. [Peer Reviewed Presentation]. 2024 Conference for the International Association of Relational Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy, Relational Psychoanalysis: The Quest for Belonging and Co-Creation of a Therapeutic Home, Merida, Mexico.

Kelly, A. (May 14, 2024). Trauma-informed transformational justice practices for holding space in the classroom: Definitions, strategies, and brainstorming with your community. (Peer Reviewed Presentation). 2024 Quinnipiac University Inclusive Excellence Summer Assembly, Hamden, CT.

Kelly, A. (October 24, 2023). Trauma-informed care for systems and providers: Creating relationships of care, connection, and respect for health and resiliency. (Invited Speaker, Workshop). Community Provider Network of Rhode Island, North Kingstown, RI.

**Laura Mutrie**

*Clinical Assistant Professor of Social Work*

*Director of Field Education – Social Work*

**Media Exposure:** Discussed “A childcare industry in crisis” on the April 15, 2024, edition of the America Trends podcast.

Was quoted in a February 2, 2024, CT Insider article, “National daycare chain with 13 CT locations to add three more by 2025.”

Discussed with Channel 3, August 15, 2023, story, “School districts push to improve classroom air quality.”

Fox 61 interview March 28, 2023, about the mental health implications for people who watched the video of the mass shooting in Nashville.

**Stephanie Jacobson and Emily McCave**

*Professor of Social Work and Professor of Social Work*

**Publication:** Jacobson, S. A., & McCave, E. (2024). Teaching telehealth during the Covid-19 pandemic and beyond as the new normal in Connecticut, USA. In L. Shlarski & Y. Latzer (Eds.), *Rethinking Social Work Education in light of the Covid-19 Pandemic: Lessons Learned from Social Work Scholars and Leaders*. Cognella.





# The health sciences and the greater good

At the School of Health Sciences, we are dedicated to shaping the future of healthcare through rigorous education, innovative research and compassionate service. Our mission is to cultivate skilled, empathetic professionals who are equipped to address the dynamic challenges of today's healthcare landscape. Our dedicated faculty and staff mentor QU students on their learning journeys which result in excellent career placements. It is humbling to be part of the QU community, to say the least.

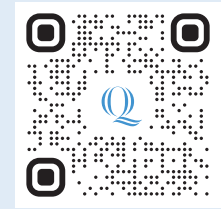
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