DNP Corner

Meet our team!

Dr. Gabrielle P. Abelard

I am an Assistant Clinical Professor and the Coordinator for the Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner Program at the CON. A Psychiatric Advanced Practice Nurse (APPN) with over 17 years of experience in mental health nursing. A Cognitive Behavioral Therapist, Consultant, and Doctorate prepared APPN whom works primarily with adults providing medication management and individual therapy at my private practice, Abelard Psychotherapy, in Stoughton, MA. Additionally I hold a Masters and Bachelor’s Degree in Nursing from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, a post Masters in Nursing Practice, and Doctorate Degree of Nursing Practice in Integrative Health from Regis College in Weston, Ma. I also consult and provide trainings to hospitals, colleges, and organizations on a variety of topics including suicide awareness, team building, restraint reduction, mental health, telemental health, and cultural awareness. Doctorate thesis: "The Experience of the Advanced Practice Psychiatric Nurse Conducting Videoconferencing Telemental Health". Along with clinical practice and teaching, I enjoy spending time with my family; Riccardo, Ricky, Anjolie, and Alixandria. I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU! Feel free to contact me with questions or just to say hello at 102 Skinner Hall, 651 North Pleasant Street, Amherst, MA 01003. Office Number: 413.545.9755, email: gabelard@umass.edu.

Dr. Jennifer M. Brouillette

As a graduate of the University of Massachusetts Amherst, I am honored to serve as clinical faculty to the College of Nursing, working alongside students in the Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program. Prior to joining as faculty, I received my undergraduate Bachelors of Science in Nursing from University of Massachusetts, Amherst (2006) and Doctorate of Nursing Practice degree with Family Nurse Practitioner specialty (2014). I have been working as a primary care provider for complex patient population in an outpatient community setting offering both acute and chronic care management. My previous nursing experience includes acute care on a fast-paced orthopedic, medical-surgical unit. My research has focused on sexually transmitted infections in college women and the role knowledge and risk assessment in decision-making. I am drawn to the promotion of healthy lifestyle behaviors, exercise and nutrition on overall personal and family wellbeing.

I reside in Western Massachusetts and in my free time, I practice yoga, fitness training, and explore the community for good local cuisine. I am a member of American Academy of Nurse Practitioners and the Massachusetts Coalition of Nurse Practitioners. I enjoy the challenges faced in education, both online and face to face encounters, that are encountered including different learning styles, preferences, and personal experiences. I am approachable, adaptable, and view student’s engagement and success a reflection of our growing, working relationships. It has been inspiring to work alongside students and am privileged to continue to move forward on this journey together!
Dr. Sean T. Collins

Dr. Sean Collins has a strong commitment to his clinical and academic interests. Dr. Collins entered a three year diploma program in nursing immediately following high school and has been caring for patients for more than 30 years. He earned his bachelor’s in Science from UMass Amherst, then a Masters in Science from UMass Worcester as a Clinical Nurse Specialist in dialysis and transplantation. He earned his post masters certification as a nurse practitioner and has worked for more than thirteen years in the diabetes setting. He has a keen interest in chronic illness. He earned his Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) from the University of Massachusetts in Worcester. During his doctoral coursework, he deployed twice to Iraq. He was awarded the prestigious Dean Lillian Goodman Outstanding Doctoral Student Award for academic standing and advancement of Nursing Science. Dr. Collins has taught on the graduate and undergraduate levels in areas surrounding health and human disease. He currently holds the position of Assistant professor at the University of Massachusetts Medical School – Graduate School of Nursing and the Diabetes Center of Excellence. He teaches in the doctoral programs, both PhD and DNP. He received the Distinguished Faculty Award in 2010 for teaching in the Doctoral program. Serves as an advisor to graduate students during their coursework. Dr. Collins currently serves as a Colonel in the Air National Guard and is the Commander of the 104th Medical Group at Barnes Air National Guard Base. He is responsible for the health and well-being for more than 1,200 military members serving on the base. He has a vested interest in Veteran’s health issues. He continues his efforts in scholarship with his military and clinical interests.

Dr. Raeann Genevieve LeBlanc

Hello! I am a Clinical Assistant Professor and teach primarily in the DNP program. I am dually certified as an Adult and Gerontology Nurse Practitioner with a Doctorate of Nursing Practice in Public Health Nurse Leadership and am currently progressing toward a PhD in Nursing. I love to learn and I am thankful in that my educational background has been strongly supported by the University of Massachusetts Amherst earning both my Bachelor of Arts and my Doctorate of Nursing Practice here. In addition I hold a Masters in Community Health Nursing from the University of Southern Maine, a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study in Advanced Practice Nursing from Northeastern University and coursework in Gerontology from UMass Boston. I have over a decade of nursing experience in advanced practice, education, and public health advocacy and I bring a broad range of experiences to the promotion of health for diverse populations living with multiple chronic conditions across the continuum of care. I have presented my work nationally to diverse audiences of collaborative practitioners to improve outcomes for the population of older adults and persons living with complex chronic diseases across settings of care. I have published articles on geriatric clinical practice, medication safety, and population health. Current research interests include innovative approaches to promoting self-care and self-management among community dwelling older adults living with and managing multiple chronic conditions. I am an active member in the American Public Health Association Special Interest Group on Diversity and Social Justice. Recently I became a trainer through the AACN End of Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC) with the goal to integrate more end-of-life and palliative care into our courses.
wish you the best of success in your learning and look forward to working with you and making a connection. Please feel free to email me at rgleblan@nursing.umass.edu.

Dr. Moira Long

I am a family nurse practitioner (FNP-C) and a part-time clinical faculty member of the University of Massachusetts Amherst College of Nursing. I was awarded my DNP-FNP from the UMass Amherst in May of 2012. Since graduating I have been working full time on the medical staff at Cape Cod Hospital and part time teaching clinical practicums to students in the Clinical Nurse Leader and Doctor of Nursing Practice programs. I am passionate about care transitions—not only from hospital to home but also between providers. My capstone was “Using a DNP-Led Transitional Care Program to Prevent Rehospitalization in Elderly Patients with Heart Failure or Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease”. My nursing background includes long-term care, hospice, school nursing, juvenile corrections, and home health. Currently I am practicing as an NP in a hospital-based interventional pain management center seeing patients of all ages. I am a member of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners and the Massachusetts Coalition of Nurse Practitioners. I love gardening, Pilates, horses, and spending time with my family! Choosing to earn my DNP was one of the best career decisions I have made. As a graduate of UMass Amherst I know first-hand what it takes to be successful in this program. I am glad for the opportunity to be a part of your journey.

Dr. Marian Michel

My name is Marian Michel and I graduated from the DNP program at the University of Massachusetts Amherst in May 2013. Since graduating, I worked for a few months assisting Minute Clinic in opening its Southwestern Virginia district and then accepted a position as a provider in a federally funded rural health clinic in southwestern Virginia. I was one of only eleven NPs to take the new certifying exam for the DNP through the American Board of Comprehensive Care and passed it in June 2014. I then received my Diplomat of Comprehensive Care, a new credential for Nurse Practitioners. I am currently assisting my past preceptor in starting a family practice weight loss business, as well as being in talks with a local pediatrician to design a pediatric weight loss program for our county. Along with my DNP degree, I have my Masters of Arts in secondary education physics and Masters of Science in medical microbiology with a minor in immunology. I look forward to working with all of you.

Dr. Anna L. Paskausky, PhD, FNP-BC
I am proud to serve as Assistant Clinical Professor and Coordinator for the Family Nurse Practitioner Program. In addition to my work at UMass, I keep up a clinical practice locally here in Western Massachusetts in both family and adult medicine. I earned my Master’s degree and PhD from Boston College and my BSN from UMass in the second bachelor’s program. I also graduated from Smith College prior to learning of the wealth of possibilities that nursing offers.

My research ranges from measuring the impact of clinical grade inflation in nursing education to understanding the concept of healing and how nurses can better support the healing process in our work. As a teacher, I love experimenting with technology to figure out how to make the online education experience more rich, robust and rewarding. Seeing students make connections and grow intellectually is a great source of joy for me as a faculty member, just as seeing patients understand and take control of their health is a source of joy as a nurse practitioner.

When I’m not riding my bike to campus, I enjoy the integrative practice of Tae Kwon Do to help me practice the health promotion I preach. It is my hope to help all students balance the demands of the DNP program, namely, balancing self-care, work, family and school. If I can be helpful in your DNP journey, please feel free to contact me at apaskausky@umass.edu.

Dr. Janice Peterson

Hi, My name is Janice Peterson DNP, FNP-BC, I have been teaching in the DNP program as an online practicum instructor. I graduated from Greenfield Community College in 1977 with an AS in Nursing, UMass Amherst in 1993 with a BS in Nursing, and UMass, Amherst in 1999 with a MS as a FNP. I was in the first cohort of the DNP program at UMass, Amherst and graduated in 2009. My capstone was "Using the Transtheoretical Model in Primary Care Weight Management: Tipping the Decisional Balance Scale for Exercise". My work experience, in addition to teaching, includes working in long term care and in the field of substance abuse as a RN. As a NP I have worked in Family Practice, Ambulatory Pediatrics in School Based Health Centers, College Health, and Private Secondary School Health. I currently have a practice in Internal Medicine. I would like to welcome all those nurses pursuing the DNP program. I understand what it is like to be a student in an online format and know the difficulty of juggling school, personal and professional duties. I would like to share something for the DNP students: for your capstone choose something you have a passion for. Then use that topic as a focus in your didactic courses when writing papers, for example look at your topic in light of pharmacology, or cultural competence, for example. It will help you begin your research toward your final project.

Dr. Deborah Rosenbloom
With her clinical expertise in geriatrics and acute care, Dr. Rosenbloom served as a content expert for the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) in the development of the new Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner certification developing the test content outline and outlining the scope of practice. Dr. Rosenbloom in line with the APRN Consensus model quickly implemented the program at her institution. She received her Ph.D. from The University of Massachusetts Amherst, her master’s degree from the MGH Institute of Health Professions with certification as an Acute care nurse practitioner and a Gerontological nurse practitioner, and her baccalaureate degree from Simmons College. She is recognized as an expert renal transplant advanced practice nurse clinician with an active clinical practice that strengthens her teaching and mentorship role for DNP and PhD students.

Dr. Bill Sullivan

I am Dr. Bill Sullivan, a part time faculty member at the University of Massachusetts, College of Nursing. I teach in the Doctorate of Nursing Practice program. I completed the RN to BS program, Master’s degree - Clinical Nurse Leader Program, as well as the Doctorate of Nursing Practice Program, all at the University of Massachusetts - Amherst. I work full time for the Department of Veterans Affairs as a nurse practitioner. I am privileged to teach for UMASS Amherst. I truly enjoy teaching in the DNP program – it is so rewarding to foster and guide students as they gain confidence and skills to achieve success. My favorite task is reading journals because students often share their triumphs and pride as they realize they can meet the challenges of doctoral work and accomplish their goals and realize their dreams! Welcome to the program!

Dr. Cecilia Vicuna-Keady

I am a Hispanic – American, born in Lima, Peru. I speak Spanish, Portuguese and English. I obtained my M.S. /Family Nurse Practitioner Track from Boston College in 2000, and my DNP in 2009 from UMASS Amherst. I have been a nursing professor as well as family nurse practitioner for over 15 years. My research interests include the use of the Chronic Care Model in the managing of diabetes among Hispanic clients, the use of the Self Care method in preventing asthma exacerbations among pediatric clients and the use of the Social Cognitive Behavior Theory to help obese,post-menopausal women with sleep apnea. I started my career at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston, where I directed the Asthma and Allergy department and was able to participate in the development of the National Asthma Guidelines at the National Institute of Health. I have also been involved in other chronic disease programs including ones on inner city asthma and programs to improve the care of diabetic patients. I have over 20 yr. experience caring for children, women and families after having worked at family practices in Vermont and New Hampshire before opening my own primary practice in New Hampshire. Keady Family Practice (keadypractice.com) is a Nurse Practitioner only practice which
provides primary care services to families. I started teaching on the online DNP program in 2010 and it has given me fantastic opportunities to work alongside our national community of learners. The talent and hard work of our online students is truly inspirational. I really enjoy working with my online groups. The great thing about distance learning is that it gives you a degree of freedom other forms of learning do not. You are free to study when, where and how you want. In my experience, being able to fit their studies in with their other commitments is something that our students really value.