Quinnipiac
School of Health Sciences

TRANSFORMING THE FUTURE OF HEALTHCARE
VIEWBOOK 2023
Thank you for taking the time to read through this annual report and to learn more about the incredible work of our faculty, staff, students and alumni over the past 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 eight 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 are doing 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. Several of our faculty were recognized this past year for their accomplishments, including scholarly work, student mentoring and service with their communities. The Occupational Therapy and Physician Assistant programs remain nationally ranked by U.S. News & World Report. Be sure to dig deeper into this report to see all our amazing work.

In February of this year, we launched a comprehensive strategic planning process for the school that 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 our 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.

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
Quick Facts

Career Outcomes (2022 Success)

99% Success Rate

- In or planning to attend graduate school (76%)
- Employed (23%)
- Seeking employment (1%)

Percentage of our 2022 graduates who are either employed or enrolled in a graduate program six months after graduation

2021–22 University Enrollment

- SHS (2113)
- SB (1853)
- CAS (1466)
- SON (1110)
- SOC (759)
- SCE (392)
- SOM (388)
- SOL (385)
- SOE (268)
- Non-degree (54)

Undergraduate Enrollment

- Health Science Studies (428)
- Health Sciences/Occupational Therapy (255)
- Health Sciences/Physical Therapy (222)
- Health Sciences/Physician Assistant (97)
- Biomedical Sciences (91)
- Radiologic Sciences (62)
- Athletic Training/Physical Therapy (59)
- Diagnostic Medical Sonography (40)
- Health Science Studies degree completion (30)
- Health Science Studies Undeclared (23)
- Athletic Training (21)
- Medical Microbiology & Immunology (15)

Graduate Enrollment

- Physical Therapy (196)
- Occupational Therapy (177)
- Physician Assistant (105)
- Pathologists’ Assistant (57)
- Biomedical Sciences (55)
- Social Work (54)
- Post-Baccalaureate Occupational Therapy (39)
- Post-Professional OT (20)
- Cardiovascular Perfusion (18)
- Advanced Medical Imaging & Leadership (16)
- Radiologist Assistant (6)
2022 Licensure/Certification Pass Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam/Area</th>
<th>State/National Pass Rate</th>
<th>Quinnipiac Pass Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diagnostic Medical Sonography - Sonography Principles and Instrumentation*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagnostic Medical Sonography - Specialty Exam*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagnostic Imaging: Radiologic Science</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>82%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diagnostic Imaging: CT</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagnostic Imaging: Mammography</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupational Therapy</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Therapy**</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physician Assistant</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pathologists’ Assistant</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiovascular Perfusion - Basic Science</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiovascular Perfusion - Clinical Applications</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athletic Training</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Work LCSW</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
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*All SHS data for Fall 2022 based on 2020–21 reporting, Class of 2021

DMS* - annual ultimate pass rate across all specialties. Students can take 1 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.

PT** - CAPTE requires reporting of ultimate pass rate.

Rankings and Distinctions

**#16**
Physician Assistant program ranked No. 1 in Connecticut and No. 16 in America

**#17**
Occupational Therapy program ranked No. 1 in Connecticut and No. 17 in America

One of the best graduate physical therapy programs in the country

Best Diagnostic Medical Sonography and Ultrasound Technician Bachelor’s Degree School

Best Other Health Professions Bachelor’s Degree School

Best Other Health Professions and Related Clinical Sciences Bachelor’s Degree School

Military Times ranked Quinnipiac No. 1 in Connecticut and No. 3 in the country in its 2022 “Best for Vets: Colleges” rankings.
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 2023 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.

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

The Dean’s Impact Fund supports the School of Health Sciences and its commitment to Quinnipiac’s strategic plan for student success, academic and inclusive excellence, economic development and lifelong connections. Consider giving today:

• A gift of $50 would provide the funds needed to support induction into honor societies

• A gift of $100 would cover the cost of a white coat or pin for ceremonies that mark a significant transition in our students’ academic careers

• A gift of $250 would support impactful community engagement experiences for our students: Go Baby Go, Camp No Limits, EQUIP, and study abroad trips

• A gift of $500 would support a student to engage in faculty-mentored research

• A gift of $1000 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.
New Faculty & Advisory Board Member

Dennis J. Brown
Physician Assistant Studies, Clinical Associate Professor, Director of Didactic Education

Dennis Brown rejoined the physician assistant department in January 2023. Dennis has extensive PA education experience as a teacher and an administrator. He is also a U.S. Navy veteran and has years of experience in emergency medicine. His doctoral studies were in public health and epidemiology.

Joshua C. Freund
Physician Assistant Studies, Clinical Assistant Professor of Physician Assistant Studies

Joshua Freund joined the physician assistant department in January 2023. An alumnus of the PA program, he has extensive experience in emergency medicine and internal medicine. He has been involved in PA education admissions and has served as a clinical preceptor and didactic lecturer. He is completing his doctoral studies in PA education.

Clotilde Dudley-Smith
Health Science Studies, Assistant Professor of Health Science Studies, Program Director of Online Programs for Health Science Studies

Clotilde Dudley-Smith joined the Health Science Studies faculty in August 2022 as program director of the online bachelor’s degree completion program. She has a doctorate in educational leadership and a master’s degree in public/healthcare administration. She is also a certified healthcare ethics consultant. Dr. Dudley-Smith brings a wealth of experience in healthcare administration, bioethics and healthcare management to the School of Health Sciences.

Kori L. Stewart
Diagnostic Imaging, Associate Professor of Diagnostic Imaging

Kori Stewart joined the diagnostic imaging department in August 2022. She has extensive experience in imaging informatics and radiologic sciences, including general radiography and computed tomography. She has published numerous peer-reviewed articles and has presented nationally on a variety of medical imaging topics with a strong focus on imaging informatics and patient care.

Kim Lumia
Senior Vice President, Chief Operating Officer, East Coast Hospital Division, Prospect Medical

Kim Lumia serves as the senior vice president and chief operating officer for Prospect Medical East in Connecticut. She is an experienced healthcare leader and nurse, having held several leadership roles at the Hospital of Saint Raphael in New Haven and served as chief nursing officer, chief operating officer, chief financial officer and chief executive officer at Sharon Hospital in Sharon, Connecticut. She serves on the Access Rehab Board and the Make-A-Wish Connecticut Board and is a wish granter. She is the current ACHE District #1 Regent for the Connecticut Chapter, CTAHE representing membership.
Community Engagement

Summer Camp

Summer Experiences: Making Memories that Last a Lifetime
The School of Health Sciences continues to make a big splash in the summer through the delivery of two incredible summer camps/academies: Medical Microbiology and Healthcare Career Exploration Academy.

Last year, our week-long medical microbiology camp was offered twice for a combined 28 high school students. This was an immersive experience focused on content, skills, techniques and experiences used in clinical microbiology laboratories. Students engaged in faculty-led discussions on the transmission, diagnosis and treatment of infectious diseases. Visiting microbiologist panels introduced participants to potential academic and career pathways in microbiology, their professional roles during the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact of rising antibiotic resistance on patient care. The program incorporated some more conventional aspects of a summer camp such as outdoor recreation and team-building competitions. Yet, each activity had a meaningful connection to microbiology. A hike up Sleeping Giant Park presented an opportunity to collect soil microbes to analyze for production of antibiotics. Students practiced common laboratory skills in the “Lab Olympics.” A highlight of the week for participants was creating works of art on agar petri dish canvases using a palette of colored bacteria.

The Healthcare Career Exploration Academy was a two-week camp introducing participants to various health professions while providing them with hands-on, skill-building opportunities. Participants learned how to take vital signs, perform suturing techniques, fabricate custom orthoses, engage in basic gait training and transfer skills. They also gained exposure to bench science laboratory and basic dissection techniques. Participants earned three certifications in Basic First Aid, Mental Health First Aid and Stop the Bleed as well as two college credits that could be transferred to Quinnipiac University. By the end of the program, participants had a deeper understanding of health profession career options and the different ways professions use their skills and expertise to solve problems across the healthcare industry. Overall, the program offered an exciting and engaging opportunity for high school students to explore the world of health professions and gain valuable skills and knowledge for their future careers.

IMPACT
Over the past two years, we have hosted a combined 150 students for these camps. Of those who attended, 42 applied to Quinnipiac University and 38 were accepted.

Help make a memory to last a lifetime: Give Today
qu.edu/shsgiving
Student capstone project celebrates decade-long contribution to PT care in New Haven area

As a culmination of their capstone project in 2012, Tracy Kennedy, DPT ‘13, and Meredith Gaucher, DPT ‘13, set out to create EQUIP Rehabilitation Clinic (formerly the V.I.S.I.O.N. Rehabilitation Clinic), dedicated to offering physical therapy services to those in need in Greater New Haven.

Opened as a student-led clinic, EQUIP Rehabilitation provides the opportunity for Quinnipiac students to work together and provide high-quality care for those in the New Haven area. Since its conception 10 years ago, Quinnipiac physical therapy students have treated more than 400 clients.

Nicole Whitbeck ’20, DPT ’23, expressed how fulfilling the experience was for her as a graduate student. “EQUIP adds a whole new layer to the graduate experience by creating a wonderful environment to learn and give back to the community,” she said.

Added Barb Davis, a client of EQUIP Rehabilitation: “Thanks to EQUIP, I have been able to regain my independence and return to some of my favorite activities such as going to the beach on Cape Cod and working with the middle school students at the HANOC homework center in West Hartford.”

When COVID-19 struck, EQUIP Rehabilitation saw an opportunity to improve and grow to benefit the broader community. EQUIP for Life Teams were envisioned and developed in late 2020 and fully implemented in 2021. The six teams follow a population health framework providing expanded community-based services throughout the lifespan, pediatrics to older adults, and across the scope of physical therapy practice.

Some of the offerings include a weekly older adult fitness class with a health education component; “Seated Strong,” a virtual upper-extremity class for those with neurologic conditions; “Hiking Without Boundaries,” an adaptive hiking opportunity with the GRIT Freedom Chair; a variety of community screenings events; an annual health fair in the Hamden community; and a Go Baby Go program that modifies ride-on cars for children with physical and cognitive impairments who would not otherwise be able to independently explore their environment. This program is in collaboration with QU’s OT department and Facilities department.

EQUIP has collaborated with more than 25 community partners to provide these incredible services. A decade later, EQUIP Rehabilitation has grown into a vibrant organization with a culture rooted in compassion and altruism. The heartbeat and professional spirit of the organization is palpable and visible with high energy, passion for healing, love of community and a sustainable framework.

“EQUIP gave me a great sense of purpose and fulfillment by giving back to the community. It pushed me to grow as a clinician, strengthened my relationships with peers and reminded me why I fell in love with this profession,” said Brittni Balleto ’20, DPT ’23.

EQUIP Rehabilitation and the EQUIP for Life Teams are led by faculty director Linda Bedard. Other faculty members and alumni volunteer their time and share their expertise to guide students each week in the clinic and provide support for the variety of community service offerings. Approximately 70% of the students from the graduate physical therapy program donate their time each week led by a student executive board of 11 members. The 11 board members gain leadership skills and experience while executing the operations of the clinic and leading the delivery of the community-based service offerings for each team. An impressive 2,500 volunteer hours were provided in 2022.

Students who participate have the chance to use their classroom skills in a real-world setting. Michael Stofko ’19, DPT ’22, explained how his dual-language knowledge helped him thrive at EQUIP.

“I started at EQUIP Rehabilitation Clinic using my Spanish language proficiency to assist with direct treatment and community engagement. My time with EQUIP over the years evolved into helping more people with bigger projects. Now, I get to return as an alumnus to spectate, observe, advise, and assist all the good that EQUIP and its group of dedicated student volunteers can do for the local community and its people,” he said.

EQUIP Rehabilitation is a member of the Pro Bono National Network, and Quinnipiac is one of eight institutional founding members of the Pro Bono National Honor Society. In 2022, 38 third-year doctoral physical therapy students were inducted into the Pro Bono National Honor Society.
Camp No Limits builds life skills and friendships
Quinnipiac’s occupational and physical therapy programs hosted Camp No Limits on its York Hill Campus. Camp No Limits aims to increase the functional independence of children and adolescents living with limb loss or differences. About 20 campers and their families experienced a network of support through adaptive recreational activities and life skills programs. These events were led by physical and occupational therapists, prosthetists, Quinnipiac students and faculty, and teen and adult mentors with limb loss or differences.

One day was a field day program with running and biking clinics. Campers and staff members learned about scholastic sport rule modifications that pertain to playing sports with prosthetics. Sports at the camp included volleyball, sled hockey and basketball.

In 2015, Quinnipiac became the first and only institution of higher education in the country to host Camp No Limits. There was no camp in 2021 because of the pandemic.

“The participants are truly inspirational and supportive of each other’s goals, challenges and ultimate triumphs while experiencing life skills and recreational opportunities provided throughout the weekend,” said Valerie Strange, clinical associate professor of occupational therapy at Quinnipiac. “The sense of community is palpable. We are so excited to bring camp back to QU and to welcome campers and their families to a fun-filled and meaningful program.”

Camp participants develop self-confidence, achieve personal goals and form enduring friendships. They also participate in recreational programs available to children with limb loss or differences and gain knowledge of the latest prosthetic options.

Camp No Limits was founded in 2004 by Mary Leighton, an occupational therapist from Maine. The camp began with four children and serves hundreds of families nationwide today.

Don’t Bee Afraid
The QU Bee Garden Project, located on the south side of the North Haven Campus, had a productive year from May 2022 to March 2023. Three to four students per semester from the HSC 308: Community Engagement Leadership course participate to help promote health to the local youth and sustainability of this project. In May 2022, three beehives were placed with approximately 10-15 annual/perennial plants.

By June 2022, the bees were purchased and placed by the Honeybee Project. The maintenance of the beehives is now overseen by Professor Tania Grgurich with the assistance of three Community Engagement Leadership students each semester. Two of the three hives successfully survived the winter, but unfortunately, not many plantings survived. The QU Bee Garden manual has been developed and is continuously updated to explain how to maintain the beehives and garden, including a plant list.

The project has expanded its reach, partnering with the community’s Bear Path Elementary School, where three Community Engagement Leadership students shared the “Don’t Bee Afraid” presentation with the third-grade science class in April to highlight the importance of honeybees to our health and ecosystem. The project’s future plans include changing the signage to “QU Beehive” and growing the educational experience for more elementary students, incorporating business students to sell future products (honey, etc.) through a QU store, expanding the garden and beehives as needed, and creating a beekeeper/gardening club.

The project is looking forward to an interprofessional experience for Leadership students.
Best Buddies promotes friendships, inclusion
Quinnipiac University has developed a strong relationship with Best Buddies CT (bestbuddies.org/connecticut) through student commitment to diversity and inclusion and service-learning opportunities. Best Buddies offers one-to-one friendships and leadership development programs for individuals with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in Connecticut.

The Quinnipiac University Best Buddies chapter has been active since 2010 offering 1-on-1 friendships with buddies in the local communities. The QU chapter is a student organization open to all undergraduates who can choose to be a general member or apply for a peer buddy match. The chapter plans events for all members to attend, in addition to Best Buddies Connecticut events that bring all chapters within the state together to further the mission of social inclusion. The chapter has an adviser who provides support as needed with events and Best Buddies organizational procedures.

In addition to the Quinnipiac Best Buddies chapter, another opportunity for students to be involved with Best Buddies Connecticut is through a course called “Wellness Through Community Action: Best Buddies.” In this elective course, students mentor individuals with IDD by providing fun physical and social activities each week throughout the semester. As part of the course, students participate in the Best Buddies Friendship Walk by assisting with preparation before the event and volunteering at the all-day event. The students are an important part of making the signature fundraising event a special occasion for all who participate. This year’s walk goal is to raise $100,000.

Other Best Buddies signature events the Quinnipiac students participate in are the Cheshire Half Marathon Best Buddies Relay Team in April and the Best Buddies Buddy Ball held every spring.

Feel-good philanthropy
The School of Health Sciences raised over $600 for the Pajama Program at its third annual “Cookie Challenge” held Dec. 12 on the North Haven Campus. Teams of faculty and staff baked hundreds of cookies to compete for awards such as “Best Tasting,” “Most Creative” and “Most Holiday Inspired.” In addition, attendees paid to vote for the “People’s Choice Award,” which went to the team from the diagnostic imaging program. Also participating were teams from the School of Education and the Netter Library.

“I was overwhelmed with the generosity of donations to the Pajama Program from those who attended this fun event,” said Geraldine Woods, an adjunct professor in the School of Education and co-president of Connecticut’s Pajama Program chapter.

The Pajama Program is a nonprofit organization that provides new pajamas and storybooks, sleep health education and caring connections to ensure that children facing adversity, including low family income, housing insecurity and family instability, have the tools they need for better bedtimes. Through the donation, 99 pairs of pajamas were provided to the NICU at YNHH / Smilow in New Haven. The School of Health Sciences has supported the Pajama Program for many years in honor of former dean Dr. Joseph Woods.

Event participants also made 50 stuffed animals through the QU Office of Community Engagement. These furry friends were donated to the Ronald McDonald House of Connecticut, which serves the needs of families with children undergoing essential and specialized medical treatment at hospitals and healthcare facilities around the state, and IRIS: Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services.
New podcast works to explore inclusive teaching

With almost 1 million books published in the U.S. each year, it’s impossible to read them all — especially for educators who work to stay current in their areas of practice. This is one of the many factors that sparked the idea of the new podcast, “The Book Club for Busy Lives,” with Karen Majeski, assistant professor of occupational therapy, and JT Torres, director of the Center for Teaching and Learning.

The podcast is for those who want to learn about recently published books relating to diverse, equitable and inclusive teaching and learning, but don’t have the time. Its goal is to provide a way for busy educators to learn how to help their students succeed, to help their communities thrive and for education to be a place for social justice.

“The School of Health Sciences Inclusive Excellence Committee historically ran a book club for its faculty to discuss, learn and explore issues and teaching practices related to diversity, equity and inclusion,” said Majeski. “We tried a few strategies to get folks together to discuss the book. However, the biggest barriers were finding a common time and the hectic lives of all instructors with other important commitments. After a discussion with JT, we found that we both used a strategy of listening to podcasts or author talks while we are driving to and from work or walking on the treadmill or around the neighborhood.”

The podcast will examine how culture influences the teaching and learning process in different environments, delving into topics such as identity, technology and various levels of diversity such as gender, race, sexuality and ability, and how they relate to personal growth.

“What Inclusive Instructors Do: Principles and Practices for Excellence in College Teaching” by Tracie Addy is the first book the podcast will explore.

“This book provides a foundation for the topics we will cover in different episodes,” said Torres. “Not only is this book very accessible to any instructor, but it also provides a starting point — a definition of terms like ‘inclusive teaching’ and ‘belonging’ that will certainly re-emerge in future seasons.”

The School of Health Sciences Inclusive Excellence Committee strives to support faculty in creating and meeting their personal goals related to diversity, equity and inclusion. They hope the support will increase student engagement, making them feel heard and welcomed in the school.

“Addy’s book provides practical reflection activities and strategies that our faculty can immediately use,” said Majeski. “It’s very accessible and provides the language and framework to structure many discussions.”

This first season consists of six episodes hosted by Majeski, Torres and Addy. It will be available soon on all major podcasting platforms.
Speaker Series enriches thought leadership, wellness on campus

The Denise J. Fiore Thought Leaders in Healthcare Speaker Series continues to host engaging speakers in discussions on some of the most pressing issues and trends facing healthcare today. Made possible through a generous gift from Fiore ’78, MBA ’91, and sponsored by the School of Health Sciences, this year’s guests provided an opportunity for self-empowerment as they explored the university’s Wellbeing 2.0: Strategies for Thriving Initiative.

“I think anyone would agree that the length of the pandemic resulted in the need for all of us to take care of ourselves,” said Fiore. “The series provides the strategies and tools to ensure we are resilient, allowing us to weather any ‘storm’ we are confronted with while at the same time being mindful of what we can do to thrive.”

The self-care benefits of mindfulness were highlighted during a series event in October featuring Amanda Votto, a certified mindfulness-based stress reduction instructor and physician assistant who serves as a master teacher on the topic at Copper Beech Institute in West Hartford, Connecticut.

Practicing mindfulness can help regulate the nervous system and mitigate the effects of other associated health issues. During her presentation to faculty, staff and students, Votto reminded her audience that to be “mindful” is to give yourself over to the present moment, take long, thoughtful breaths and, most importantly, swipe away thoughts pertaining to the past or future.

“It’s really about having the skill and building our awareness to come back to the present moment,” she said. “Our awareness goes two places: It goes to the future, or it goes to the past. All the while, we have this present moment that we’re in, and if we’re not continually training ourselves to stay in it, we’re going to miss it.”

Positive intelligence was explored during the next series event in December with Louise Stoner Crawford, leadership coach and facilitator, who led the conversation using her past experiences working with organizations and individuals to clarify vision, set priorities and navigate challenges. Positive intelligence is the ability to respond to life’s challenges with less stress and a more positive mindset.

“During our workshop, participants learned about their own inner voices that sabotage them, creating anxiety, stress and fear,” said Crawford. “We learned how to identify these destructive thought patterns and practiced a few simple techniques to reset and recover.”

Best-selling author, TEDx speaker, coach-consultant and leadership podcast co-host Erin Hatzikostas took the Quinnipiac stage in April with props, humility and humorous storytelling on corporate and life experiences, illustrating how to avoid compromises and perceived limits.

Hatzikostas also shared her proprietary framework, “The Six Principles of Strategic Authenticity,” by expanding on the acronym H.U.M.A.N.S (Humility, Unexpected, Model, Adapt, Narrate, Spark).

“These six principles are things that you purposefully do. They are training wheels,” said Hatzikostas. “Start noticing those things, embracing them and using them. Ultimately, what I want you to do is turn your super flaws into your superpowers.”

Dean of the School of Health Sciences Janelle Chiasera attributes the continued success and ongoing support of the speaker series to Fiore’s philanthropy and partnership with Quinnipiac over the past three years.

“This year, we really focused on providing folks with tools and strategies to create a sound mind and strong emotional foundation to weather the many challenges we face both personally and professionally,” said Chiasera. “It is the distinct power of philanthropy that enables us to provide these unique educational experiences that not only enrich lives within our campus but represent a very substantial investment in the future of our entire community.”
Expert patients provide authentic experiences, keep Quinnipiac on the cutting edge of interprofessional education movement

Four years ago, Gabby Ceccolini ’10, MS ’12, learned about a medical training exercise at Oxford University involving expert patients — individuals representing certain cultural identities or illnesses who can draw on genuine experience when giving feedback to students. In this case, the patients all had Parkinson’s disease.

Ceccolini is the director of the Standardized Patient and Assessment Center (S-PAC) at Quinnipiac, a 16-room facility in the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine that simulates outpatient clinical offices and provides an authentic setting for practicing a comprehensive selection of procedures. The standardized patients are often experienced actors who are trained to exhibit symptoms and take their social cues from a script, helping students make a seamless transition into a professional healthcare environment upon their graduation.

But the use of standardized patients can be limited, Ceccolini said. Using expert patients in these training exercises is an emerging practice, one that provides a more authentic experience and further distinguishes Quinnipiac as one of the country’s foremost institutions when it comes to interprofessional healthcare education.

“The reason we developed the expert patient program was because we wanted there to be more authentic conversations,” Ceccolini said. “We don’t want to say, ‘You have to fill this script and just say these certain things.’ There is literature that shows students find authentic experiences to be very insightful.”

Quinnipiac’s innovation in this space was on display in March at a first-of-its-kind event held at the Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences building. A collection of 105 students representing several disciplines — including occupational therapy, social work, nursing and the physician assistant program — got a rare opportunity to apply their skills and discuss best practices with expert patients representing the transgender community.

This is the ninth year of Quinnipiac’s interprofessional healthcare program, said Emily McCave, a professor of social work with expertise in affirmative practice with sexual minority and gender-diverse individuals.

This year’s focus on transgender healthcare can trace its roots back to a more global focus on LGBTQ+ health issues when the program started in 2015. Nearly a decade later, the need for skilled, thoughtful practitioners remains.

In one exercise from the program, Maily Tran ’21, OTD ’25, and her group — which included physician assistant students, occupational therapy students and nursing students — met with Jillian, a transgender woman who portrayed a patient with an ankle injury based on a script and her authentic life experiences.

Two faculty facilitators, one from social work and another from occupational therapy, were also present.

“Jillian had been tripped intentionally in a kickball game,” Tran explained. “She was dissatisfied with the treatment she received at the hospital. She had been misgendered and misunderstood. You could just tell she was very overwhelmed.”

Tran said while it’s important to discuss using crutches or wearing a boot with a patient in this scenario, it’s also important to listen to patients.

She added that empathy during the initial connection with patients helps with identifying and understanding feelings. She also said compassion gives a practitioner time to sit with patients, but then allows enough space to separate from the feelings and direct the energy to ask, “What can I do to help?”

Likewise, it’s a sign of respect to call transgender patients by their chosen names and pronouns.

For Jillian, this approach made her feel hopeful about the healthcare clinicians of the future.

“The students come in here a little nervous because they don’t want to offend anyone or say something wrong,” said Jillian, who has worked as an expert patient for five years. “I try to reassure them that I’m very easygoing. I tell them, ‘I’d rather have you get it wrong now, but then as you move along and become more comfortable, ask great questions. That’s the key.’

In the wake of the event in March, Ceccolini said she’s heard from several universities who are interested in following Quinnipiac’s lead and hosting similar training exercises.
Biomedical Sciences degree provides strong foundation on the journey to becoming a physician

Maria Mastropaolo ’18, MD ’23, learned of her neurology residency at New York University Langone Health in March, a dream placement at one of the country’s premier programs in the discipline. But she didn’t know she was “destined to become a doctor” until she enrolled in the biomedical sciences major at Quinnipiac, a foundational learning experience that crystallized her future.

“Entering college, I was unsure what the future had in store for me,” said Mastropaolo, a native of Saddle River, New Jersey. “I wanted a career in science, but I didn’t exactly know which route to take.”

After deciding that a role as a medical researcher wasn’t the best fit — her bubbly personality was better suited for a patient-centered environment — she credits Quinnipiac’s expert faculty with mentoring her and helping her realize her dreams.

Having the schools of nursing, health sciences and medicine all centralized on the North Haven Campus and learning to work on interdisciplinary teams were also critical to her growth and career exploration, Mastropaolo said. And studying biomedical science as an undergraduate provided a sturdy foundation that would serve her well across her four years at the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine.

Similarly, Paul Farris ’22, MD ’26, attributes his seamless transition into QU Netter to the foundational concepts first introduced to him in the biomedical sciences program. It’s a bit earlier in the journey for him — he completed his first year as a medical student in the spring of 2023 — but it is already apparent that his bachelor’s degree sufficiently prepared him for the rigors of studying to become a physician.

“Taking many difficult science classes each semester prepared me to better handle the medical school workload,” said Farris, a native of Scarsdale, New York. “I also learned how to interact with staff at QU because of how available they are to students, and that made me more comfortable building relationships with staff at the medical school.”

Unlike Mastropaolo, whose path to becoming a doctor slowly evolved and materialized, Farris said he entered the biomedical sciences program with the clear expectation that studying medical breakthroughs and developing strong research skills would one day ease his preparation for the all-important Medical College Admission Test (MCAT). Finding a community of like-minded peers is still fueling his motivation on this tough yet rewarding journey.

“I am grateful for all of the friends and teachers who got me to this point,” Farris said. “I couldn’t have made it this far without the constant support of my friends that I met at QU who will always be a huge part of my life, and the constant guidance and advice from mentors and professors at the school.”
Center for Interprofessional Healthcare Education fosters collaboration, growth for students and faculty

Healthcare systems function most effectively — and, in turn, patients receive optimal care — when providers are versed in a holistic approach known as interprofessional education (IPE) and collaborative practice. It’s a methodology that fosters collaboration, empathy and growth, and it’s been at the heart of Quinnipiac’s nationally recognized Center for Interprofessional Healthcare Education since its inception in 2013.

Today, more than 3,000 students representing the schools of medicine, nursing, health sciences, computing and engineering, law, education and business annually engage in over 70 IPE programs to prepare them for working in 21st-century healthcare. Most IPEs are patient-centered clinical training exercises taught on the North Haven Campus by an interdisciplinary team of expert faculty under the stewardship of director and founding faculty member Kimberly Hartmann.

Prior to the formalization of the center, IPE was a grassroots initiative at Quinnipiac. A committee of faculty members — including Hartmann, a professor of occupational therapy — would gather to discuss how to implement this emerging practice into the existing healthcare curriculum. The university is constantly pushing boundaries and finding new ways to innovate, and the spirit of collaboration running through the program starts at the top.

“All of us have such key and unique pieces to contribute,” said Maya Doyle, an associate professor of social work who was one of the center’s three faculty fellows appointed in 2022. “How we work together, how we treat each other, how we communicate is so important for students to see.”

CIHE learners can obtain a micro-credential, a certified digital badge that allows them to graduate with distinction and transition seamlessly into a professional healthcare environment. In fact, more than 20% of Quinnipiac students who participated in IPE programming said in a recent outcome survey that it directly impacted their ability to land a job, get into graduate school or earn a higher salary.

“If there’s two job candidates who are even, I’m absolutely going to hire the person that has the IPE distinction because that’s going to give me a foundation to build on,” said Katie Meriano, assistant director of the CIHE and a professor of occupational therapy. “It’s those soft skills that employers talk about so much, the ability to communicate, the ability to work on a team, to be ethical — all of that is built into IPE.”

But beyond career readiness, IPE plays a pivotal role in improving the healthcare landscape at large.

“It’s been proven in the literature that interprofessional healthcare lowers costs, improves effectiveness and improves consumer satisfaction,” said Hartmann, a Quinnipiac alumna and a licensed occupational therapist who has taught at her alma mater for decades.

“At an early stage it gives students an understanding of how they impact the greater healthcare system,” added Gabby Ceccolini ’10, MS ’12, director of the Standardized Patient and Assessment Center (S-PAC). “It gets them to be more forward-thinking and develop empathy for a team of professionals.”

Prior to the advent of interprofessional education, many caregivers would work independently in a vacuum. This may occur because of the system’s requirements on those professionals. Patients could be left to their own advocacy to seek additional guidance, thus resulting in increased cost and lower patient satisfaction.

Instead, Hartmann said, students should “learn from, with and about other professions and to work together as a team as early as possible so that they can actually see the benefits.”

She cited the example of an emergency room visit for a person with a diabetic wound on the foot requiring the use of crutches. A physician with IPE experience knows to consult with a social worker, an on-site physician’s assistant and perhaps even a physical therapist to formulate an immediate action plan for a patient facing a complicated predicament.

Another faculty fellow, Peter Longley — a clinical assistant professor of nursing and the director of online nursing programs — said he was drawn to the opportunity to “network with colleagues with the same mindset because the only
way we’re going fix healthcare is if we work together.” A Desert Storm veteran, Longley likened the challenge of being on a healthcare team fronted by a leader who doesn’t solicit input to a scenario he would encounter in the military.

“Whenever we had an inexperienced lieutenant who was trying to do it all, to prove a point — not that anybody was trying to ‘win’ the situation or get anybody hurt — we would all take a step back and let them feel the weight of not having a team behind you,” Longley said. “They would feel all the stress and the burdens that come with it. And most of them, the good ones, would be like, ‘Oh, I’d better ask for help.’”

Longley praised Dr. Rahul Anand, another faculty fellow, for being the kind of physician who recognizes teammates and fosters a sense of unity on a healthcare team. “He sees you,” Longley said. It creates a calmer, more efficient working environment for everyone and helps prevent burnout.

Doyle cited Quinnipiac’s long and distinguished track record in interprofessional education as one of the reasons she wanted to join the university. A licensed social worker with more than 20 years of experience in pediatric and nephrology practices, she specializes in rare and chronic health conditions and has been instrumental in creating events that utilize expert patients who can provide the most authentic experience for students.

These workshops and seminars — such as a transgender healthcare event attended by more than 100 students in March 2023 — keep Quinnipiac at the forefront of the interprofessional education movement under Hartmann’s guidance.

“We’ve built up the program over the years, and Kim is the backbone,” Doyle said. “We’re very thoughtful about always improving our interprofessional events. We take feedback from students. We talk as faculty. We’re always asking, ‘What can we do better next time?’”

Hartmann said the way we can do better is to continue to build our team skills, our team communication, our shared values and ethics, and our respect for each other’s roles and the skills each profession contributes to a patient’s or person’s care.
Alumni Spotlight

Tom Cappas ’00, MS ’13, MBA ’15, didn’t set out to become the chief operating officer of Midstate Radiology Associates and the system director of radiology for Hartford HealthCare. At least not initially.

“I was a rather shy kid with big, thick glasses when I first came to Quinnipiac,” Cappas said recently from his office at MidState Medical Center in Meriden, Connecticut. “The diagnostic imaging program gave me the opportunity to take what I learned in class and go into hospitals as a teenager. That experience took me out of my shell. It was a game-changer for me.”

Cappas has always been curious, highly competitive and driven. But after spending most of his early career as an MRI technologist, Cappas wanted to learn more about the business side of radiology. So he returned to QU to earn his Master of Science in Organizational Leadership and his MBA.

With two advanced degrees from the School of Business, Cappas was uniquely prepared to take the next step in his career. He found the perfect opportunity at Midstate Radiology Associates, a valued partner of Hartford HealthCare. Today, Cappas has played a vital role in the historic growth and national accolades of Midstate Radiology Associates. Over the last seven years, Cappas has helped to build the practice from three sites to over 20 across Connecticut and from seven radiologists to 50.

Some of the QU mentors Cappas credits for his success are William Hennessy, professor emeritus of diagnostic imaging and former director of the diagnostic imaging program, and Jerry Conlogue, professor emeritus of diagnostic imaging.

“When I first came to Quinnipiac, I was undecided about my science major. My older brother, Michael, was in the respiratory therapy program,” Cappas said. “During my first semester, Bill and Jerry came to talk to all the undecided science majors about the diagnostic imaging program and I fell in love with the program.”

But this was more than just recruiting new students, Cappas said. Hennessy and Conlogue saw the future with uncommon clarity. They saw diagnostic imaging education at QU as a model and a standard for programs all across the country.

“They were thinking big when they were building that program. They weren’t going to settle for anything less,” Cappas said. “They instilled that mentality in me, the ability to think differently. I believe that’s one of the main reasons we’ve grown so much [at Midstate Radiology].”

Even more importantly, Cappas said, has been growing Midstate Radiology while elevating patient care. Patients always come first in any discussion, any service.

“Our patients want the best of everything — the best diagnostic imaging professionals, the best equipment and technology, the best reading, they want it all — and they deserve it all,” Cappas said. “We need to be singularly focused on their care. And we are.”

Cappas credits his education at Quinnipiac for encouraging and developing his entrepreneurial nature. In gratitude, he’s served as a part-time member of the diagnostic imaging faculty in the School of Health Sciences.

“What I’ve learned is that the successful radiology organizations are entrepreneurial and innovative,” said Cappas, who was selected as a semifinalist for national Radiology Executive of the Year in 2020 and 2021. “There aren’t many other specialties that offer the full continuum of care like radiology does.”

When Cappas isn’t offering that full continuum of care, he’s likely spending time with his wife, Alexis, who earned her bachelor’s degree in communications from Quinnipiac in 2000, and their children, 14-year-old Nick and 11-year-old Anna.

“My family means everything to me,” Cappas said. “I wouldn’t be where I am today without them.”
Strategic Partnerships

New Social Work Partnership
Quinnipiac University and Albertus Magnus College announced an innovative new partnership that will allow graduates of Albertus Magnus to complete their Master of Social Work (MSW) degree at Quinnipiac. This combined degree program aims to help remedy the massive social worker shortage in the U.S. by creating a pathway for students for entry into this high-demand field. Students can complete both their undergraduate degree and MSW in 5½ years and can save tuition for nine credits of MSW courses, which are counted toward their undergraduate degree at Albertus Magnus.

“We are very enthusiastic about entering into this partnership with Quinnipiac University,” said Sean O’Connell, vice president for academic affairs and dean of faculty at Albertus. “We firmly believe that through collaboration, institutions of higher learning can offer more educational opportunities for students, which in turn will lead to even more fruitful careers in our state. Commitment and partnership are what this agreement with Quinnipiac is all about.”

Health Sciences and Nursing receive $3 million CT Health Horizons Grant
The state of Connecticut made a significant impact on the critical statewide workforce shortage in nursing and social work by allocating $30.5 million to partner colleges and universities to expand faculty and provide tuition support for students, while creating strategic workforce partnerships. CT Health Horizons — a three-year, $35 million initiative — is a partnership among the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU), the state’s Office of Workforce Strategy (OWS), the University of Connecticut (UConn), the Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges (CCIC), multiple state agencies and the Connecticut Hospital Association to grow and diversify the next generation of nurses and social workers.

The School of Health Sciences’ social work program, in conjunction with the School of Nursing, received a $3 million grant to address Connecticut’s shortage of nurses and social workers by creating career pathways for students to develop and retain talent in state. The social work program will be awarding $10,000 per student per year in tuition assistance over the next three years to help bolster enrollment in this high-demand career.

Hartford HealthCare
Hartford HealthCare and Quinnipiac University announced a transformative, university-wide academic partnership in January 2022 that will build the healthcare workforce of tomorrow and will grow student pipelines across a wide range of professions to address long-term talent needs for the state of Connecticut and beyond. The two organizations’ collaboration includes new lifelong learning and upskilling programs, strategies to grow talent for Connecticut’s varied skill and professional needs, and coordinated on-campus healthcare services for students, athletes, faculty and staff.

“We are thrilled to partner with a leading institution like Quinnipiac University to educate and prepare the next generation of healthcare workers which will address the future needs of our state,” said Jeffrey A. Flaks, president and chief executive officer of Hartford HealthCare. “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.”

For the School of Health Sciences, this partnership is helping us grow our clinical placement footprint, internship and experiential learning opportunities, and advanced skill development in our students.
Department Highlights

Physical Therapy
Our students have been very active this past year having presented at the 2022 APTA Combined Sections Meeting in San Antonio, Texas; the APTA Connecticut Annual Conference in Hartford, Connecticut; and the Academy of Neurologic Physical Therapy Annual Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota. In a ceremony in spring of 2023, we were proud to recognize 10 graduate and 16 undergraduate physical therapy students who were inducted into the Alpha Eta Society. Dr. Duane Scotti was promoted to associate clinical professor, Dr. Rachel Pata was promoted to clinical professor, and we are so happy to have welcomed Dr. Dawn Roller to our faculty family as she joined our experiential learning team as assistant clinical professor and associate director of clinical education.

Our alumni base has surpassed 2,800 members and is growing each year. The Class of 2022 represented our largest in program history (88) and produced a first-time pass rate of 94.1%, well above the national average. We hosted two important events this year: the Second Annual Dr. Katherine Harris White Coat Ceremony and the first PT Professional Networking Event. Our networking event drew more than 100 students and 25 employers creating a new tradition of relationship building and professional network development among our employers, our program and our students.

Physician Assistant Studies
Several students from the program attended the 2023 American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA) Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, with three students serving as members of the House of Delegates (Alec Williams, Jenna McHale, Deanna Sgambato) and 10 students presenting case report posters (Hannah Cote, Stephanie David, Jordan Earl, Connor Halloran, Samantha Leal, Anthony Messina, Julia Regino, Arissa Schweiss, Deanna Sgambato and Julie Thompson). In a ceremony in spring of 2023, we were proud to recognize six students who were inducted into the Alpha Eta Society (April Alver, Jackie Callinan, Olivia Esposito, Nicole Horn, Zeel Patel and Katie Rogers). Professor Jocelyn Depathy was promoted to clinical associate professor, and we welcomed three new faculty members to our department: Dr. Dennis Brown, associate professor and director of didactic education; Nicholas Charboneau, visiting assistant professor; and Joshua Freund, assistant professor and clinical coordinator.

Our alumni base has surpassed 1,200 members, and it continues to grow. In addition, our first-time PANCE success rate for the class exceeded the national average. The senior entry-level students are enjoying a new course this spring taught by Professor Seeger and Professor Freund: “Intro to PA Skills.” This course allows the students to start practicing hands-on skills, such as taking vitals, using the otoscope, and listening to the heart and lungs, as well as introducing them to the Simulation Lab, ECG and Standardized Patients.
Rehabilitation, Health and Wellness
Our students have been active in both internships and capstone presentations. Madison Deblasi completed a season-long internship with the New York Giants, and Riley Burns completed a season-long internship with the Carolina Panthers. Jake Savino and Lilia Becker were accepted to present their capstone presentations at the NATA national conference in Indianapolis where they joined Kat Egan who started her NFL summer 2023 internship with the Indianapolis Colts. In a ceremony in spring of 2023, we were proud to recognize six students who were inducted into the Alpha Eta Society. Professor Dana White was promoted to clinical professor, and she co-authored the Interassociation Consensus Statement on Sports Nutrition Models appearing in The Journal of Athletic Training. Professor Meghan Lewis was promoted to clinical professor and received the 2023 NATA Athletic Trainer Service award.

Our alumni are doing great things as well. Deanna Doheny (BS ’16) was named the associate head athletic trainer for football at Rice University, and Rachel Leahy (BS ’18) was named player of the week for Atlantic Hockey for her immediate care of an Army West Point ice hockey player who had taken an inadvertent skate to the neck during a game.

Watch this amazing story: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tMKEA1jf_fY

Diagnostic Imaging
Our students were busy this year. Jordan Tupay 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 where he will have the opportunity to get to know the ASRT, attend educational sessions, and network with medical imaging and radiation therapy professionals across the country. Five students in the Radiologic Sciences program competed in the annual Connecticut Society of Radiologic Technologists (CSRT) College Bowl at Middlesex Community College (Paige Kipp, Macey O’Connell, Jordan Tupay, Elizabeth Velez and Rebecca Arrowsmith). In a ceremony in spring of 2023, we were proud to recognize two students who were inducted into the Alpha Eta Society.

The department recently partnered with an augmented reality software company, Hoth Intel, to engage students in use cases that involve understanding cross-sectional anatomy and identification of pathology with use of this innovative technology and software. This partnership will allow us to develop new methods of teaching to the undergraduate and graduate students in imaging.
Occupational Therapy
This year, we celebrated 17 of our doctoral students in an inaugural stole ceremony to recognize their graduation and hard work over the past three years. We also welcomed 27 new students to our BS to OTD program. Several students presented at the AOTA and ConnOTA conferences, one student attended the Nobel Peace Summit in South Korea and one student was invited to the Oxford Global Engagement Conference in California. Our students founded the Quinnipiac chapter of the Coalition of OT Advocates for Diversity (COTAD) and organized, coordinated and ran the second annual student-led conference with more than 175 participants in attendance. We were proud to induct 15 students into the PTE honor society and 15 students into the Alpha Eta Society. Dr. Elizabeth Wescott and Dr. Anna Norene Carlson were each promoted to clinical associate professor and Dr. Courtney Richards was promoted to clinical professor. Sarah Thomas ’02 provided a fireside chat on Embracing Entrepreneurship at the 2023 AOTA INSPIRE Conference, and Carolyn Brown, OTD ’20, was featured in Quinnipiac Magazine and on Fox News for her innovative work in StrokeOT, a program that evolved from her capstone work while completing her post-professional doctorate in occupational therapy.

Health Science
The Department of Health Science is one of the newest departments within the School of Health Sciences serving as home to all our direct-entry dual-degree programs (HHS/DPT, HSS/OTD, HSS/MOT, HSS/ELMPA), our online degree-completion program and our health science studies program. We are currently 439 students strong, and this past year, our experiential learning opportunities grew for our on-ground students with 380 students participating in high-impact, experiential learning (community engagement, hands-on, patient communication or internship courses). In a ceremony in spring of 2023, we were proud to recognize 30 students who were inducted into the Alpha Eta Society. We launched a minor in nutrition that has enrolled nearly 100 students, and we submitted approvals for two new minors in sports medicine and human movement that will help create focused education for students interested in these content areas. As a new department, we are focused on creating a vision for health science education that meets market demands, is unique and distinct and allows pathways for students who are exploring.
Biomedical Sciences
Our students have been active in both internships and capstone presentations. Students from the cardiovascular profusion program attended a conference in Fall 2022 presenting posters and abstracts. Kathleen Arimado, MHS ’23, was selected as a student delegate and received scholarship award funds to attend and present at the American Association of Pathologists’ Assistants conference in Fall 2022. The pathologists’ assistant program Class of 2024 held its sixth annual White Coat Ceremony on April 29, 2023, on the North Haven Campus. Dr. Shawna Reed and five BMS students attended a conference in June 2023 at the Boston Bacteria Meeting, a regional microbiology meeting. Students at BBM were Isabella Diaz (HSC, MHS), Emily Beltz (MMI), Evan Gundling (BMS), Vincent Pedulla (BMS) and Dagmawi Bogale (BMS, MHS). Dr. Martine Mirrione was promoted to professor of biomedical sciences. Dr. Christian Eggers had a paper accepted to the Journal of Visualized Experiments (JoVE) and as part of the publication, they sent a videographer to campus to shoot him performing certain techniques. Alpha Eta & Sigma Xi: Approximately 12 graduate and undergraduate BMS students were inducted in Spring 2023.

Social Work
This academic year we again co-sponsored Lobby Day training for undergraduate and graduate social workers in Connecticut. It was held at the Connecticut State Capitol, March 27, 2023. Our annual Social Work Month event, titled “Social Work Breaks Barriers for Veterans in Connecticut,” was very successful. It was attended by social workers across the state. This event fulfilled the Connecticut requirement for veteran-specific CEUs. Two CEUs were awarded to licensed social workers who attended.

Our combined degree program with Albertus Magnus College is set to launch in Fall 2023. Faculty members have been working hard to develop the asynchronous courses necessary for Albertus Magnus students to take MSW courses. We are pleased that we have been able to start awarding CT Health Horizons grants to eligible incoming MSW students. This year, we have five inaugural inductees into the Alpha Eta Society (Rachel Moore, Pedro Silva, Amber Stevenson, Britney White and Carrie Zeng). Two of our students (Pedro Silva and Kaitlin Palance) earned graduate distinction in IPE.

Congratulations to our faculty for their continuous scholarship and publications and for the numerous ways in which we continue to make a difference in social work across the state, region and nation. The Abolition Workshop Series, co-sponsored with the Social Welfare Action Alliance (SWAA) Connecticut Chapter, was held monthly throughout 2022. This series drew social workers not only from Connecticut, but from across the nation. It covered topics such as abolition and policing, abolition and healthcare, abolition and child welfare, abolition and mental health, abolition and immigration, abolition and incarceration, and abolition and indigenous sovereignty.
Celebrate!

AMIL Pinning

DPT White Coat

RS Pinning

PA White Coat

DMS Pinning

IPE Distinction

MOT Pinning

OTD Ceremony

MSW Pinning

Pathologists’ Assistant White Coat

Alpha Eta

24
Faculty Accolades & Accomplishments

Department of Biomedical Sciences

Robert Cottrell
Clinical Assistant Professor of Biomedical Sciences
Director, Pathologists’ Assistant Program

Service: President Elect of the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS). American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP), Elected member of the Board of Certification’s Pathologists’ Assistants Examination Committee. 2023–2026.

Jesse McCoy
Clinical Assistant Professor of Biomedical Sciences
Clinical Coordinator, Pathologists’ Assistant Program

Service: American Association of Pathologists’ Assistants, Chief Financial Officer American Association of Pathologists’ Assistants, Grossing Guidelines – Art Director American Society for Clinical Pathology, Commission on Membership – Member-at-Large American Society for Clinical Pathology, Commission on Science, Technology and Public Policy – Workforce Steering Committee, University Subcommittee – Appointed Member

Martine Mirrione
Associate Professor of Biomedical Sciences


Allison Maas (MHS in BMS May ’22) thesis student, presented “The Effects of Deprenyl on Syntaxin-1 Expression in the Rodents with Congenital Learned Helplessness” in the Graduate Student Data Blitz Session at NEURON (Northeast Undergraduate Research Organization for Neuroscience), Quinnipiac University, CT, on April 4, 2022.

Kiako T.K., Mirrione M.M. Epigenetic Analysis of DNA Methylation using Sodium Bisulfite Conversion Following Antidepressant Treatment in a Rodent Model of Depressive-Like Behavior. NEURON (Northeast Undergraduate Research Organization for Neuroscience), Quinnipiac University, CT. 2022.

Prina M.L., Schulz D., Mirrione M.M. Analysis of Monoamine Oxidase Activity in Brain Homogenate from an Animal-Model of Depressive-Like Behavior Treated with Deprenyl. NEURON (Northeast Undergraduate Research Organization for Neuroscience), Quinnipiac University, CT. 2022.

Quintana A., Betz A., Mirrione M.M. Evaluating Perineuronal Nets’ Association with Microglia in the Prefrontal Cortex, Hippocampus, and Amygdala. NEURON (Northeast Undergraduate Research Organization for Neuroscience), Quinnipiac University, CT. 2022.

Grant: Faculty Scholarship and Creative Works Impact Fund administered by the Provost’s Office “Continuation of Microglia Alterations after Early Life Adversity” Martine Mirrione, Biomedical Sciences, and Adrienne Betz, Behavioral Neuroscience and Psychology, $5000 supply budget over academic year.

Shawna Reed
Assistant Professor of Biomedical Sciences
Program Director, Medical Microbiology and Immunology


Presentations: Reed, S.C. Paired and Compared Lessons for the Microbiology Flipped and Hybrid Classroom, American Society for Microbiology Conference for Undergraduate Educators, Online. June 2022.


Service:
- Boston Bacterial Meeting, Session Chair (June 2022)
- New Haven Science Fair, Judge (May 2022)
- Infection and Immunity, Peer Reviewer, Ad Hoc (2022)

Department of Diagnostic Imaging

Alicia Giaimo
Clinical Professor of Diagnostic Imaging

Presentation: Giaimo, A. Mistakes in the lab: Are they really mistakes?


Bernadette Mele
Clinical Professor of Diagnostic Imaging

Service: American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT)

Practice Standards Council Magnetic Resonance Subcommittee, 7/1/2022–6/30/2023

American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT)

Committee on RT Advocacy Region 9 Subcommittee, 7/1/2022–6/30/2023

2023 Yale CBIT- Healthcare Hackathon, 2023
Theme: Patient Engagement

Faculty Mentor


ASRT Scanner, 19. (December 2022 / January 2023)

Kori Stewart
Associate Professor of Diagnostic Imaging

Service: Association of Educators in Imaging and Radiologic Sciences (AEIRS) Board of Directors, Secretary/Treasurer, 2021–2023; Elected on March 15, 2023, as incoming 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

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

Award(s): ASRT Foundation’s International Speakers Exchange Award Recipient.

Artificial Intelligence in Radiology: Will We Teach Robots Soon Too?

Invited lecture at 2023 United Kingdom Imaging and Oncology Congress, Liverpool, UK, June 2023


Department of Health Science

Clotilde Dudley-Smith ED.D, MPA, RDH, HEC-C
Assistant Professor Health Science


Susan Norkus, PhD, ATC
Professor of Health Science

Service: Eastern Athletic Trainers’ Association, Convention Program Committee


Savino, J., Bartolotta, D., Norkus, S. Level 3 Case Study: Development of Avascular Necrosis in a Tibial
Department of Occupational Therapy

Nicole A. Fidanza
Clinical Assistant Professor of Occupational Therapy

Presentations:


Akselrud, R. & Fidanza, N. Conversations That Matter: We Didn’t Expect It to Be So Different: Two Educators Discuss Their Transition From Adjuncts to Full-Time Professors. AOTA INSPIRE 2022. Quinnipiac University. San Antonio, Texas. 2022.

Kimberly D. Hartmann
Professor of Occupational Therapy

Publications:


Susan Higgins
Clinical Assistant Professor and Program Director of Occupational Therapy OTD program


Barbara Nadeau Ph.D., OTR/L
Clinical Professor of Occupational Therapy


Karen Majeski
Assistant Professor of Occupational Therapy


Presentations: Majeski, K. & Olson, M. Protocol for Assessment of Reading (PAR): Using formative measures to determine appropriate reading accommodations for students. ConnOTA Special Interest Section Fall Conference. North Haven, CT. 2022.

Susan Higgins
Clinical Assistant Professor and Program Director of Occupational Therapy OTD program


Elected position: NATIONAL Chair: Developmental Disabilities Special Interest Section (Chair) AOTA

STATE Government Affairs Committee Co-Chair, ConnOTA

Other: Citation alert: Article The Occupational Profile as a Guide to Clinical Reasoning in Early Intervention: A Detective’s Tale was awarded for being read 200 times

Courtney Richards, OTD, OTR/L
Clinical Associate Professor


Valerie Strange, OTD, MS, OTR/L
Clinical Associate Professor of Occupational Therapy

Funded Grant: SHS Faculty Research Grant “Enhancing Graduate PT/OT Curricula through Community-based Global Learning” Awarded $7,300. 2022.

Tracy Van Oss
Clinical Professor of Occupational Therapy


Galpin Internationalization Grant $2,412.

Quinnipiac Public Service Award with Grace DiGiovanni for work with the Columbus House. 2022.

Elizabeth Wescott
Clinical Assistant Professor of Occupational Therapy

Department of Physical Therapy

Karen Blood
Professor of Physical Therapy
Publication: Munda, J., Blood, K. Walking away from negativity and moving forward with treating older adults with dementia. APTA CT Fall Conference. West Hartford, CT. October 2022.

Julie Booth
Clinical Associate Professor of Physical Therapy

Julie Booth and Erin Lampron
Clinical Associate & Clinical Assistant Professor of Physical Therapy

Kathleen Kelley
Professor of Physical Therapy

Erin Lampron
Clinical Assistant Professor of Physical Therapy
Grant: Quinnipiac University School of Health Sciences Faculty Research Grant to support research activity for examining the feasibility, validity, and reliability of the five times sit to stand test via telehealth in a neurological patient population (Co-recipient Laura Simaitis)

Duane Scotti
Promoted to Clinical Associate Professor of Physical Therapy

Department of Physician Assistant Studies

Brennan Bowker
Adjunct Clinical Assistant Professor


Cindy Rossi  
*Clinical Professor*


Peter Sandor  
*Adjunct Clinical Assistant Professor*

**Awards:** 2023 – Presidential Citation – Society of Critical Care Medicine. 2022 – Presidential Citation – Society of Critical Care Medicine


**Department of Rehabilitation, Health & Wellness**

Debora Lavigne  
*Director of Fitness, Leisure & Wellness*

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

Meghan Lewis  
*Clinical Associate Professor & Lab Coordinator of Athletic Training & Sports Medicine*

**Service:** Education Advancement Committee of the National Athletic Trainers’ Association District Representative

**Awards:** National Athletic Trainers’ Association Service Award 2023 National Athletic Training Associate Annual Meeting. 2023.

Stephen Straub  
*Professor & Chair Rehabilitation, Heath & Wellness, Athletic Training Program Director*

**Service:** President, Connecticut Athletic Trainers’ Association

Dana White  
*Clinical Associate Professor of Athletic Training & Sports Medicine*

**Sports Dietician**

**Service:** Cardiovascular Health & Well-Being dietetic practice group of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics – Secretary NATA liaison to the Sport and Human Performance subgroup of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.


**Department of Social Work**

Maya Doyle  
*Associate Professor*

**Service:** Selected as the 2022–2024 Interprofessional Education Fellow for SHS and continues to work on developing a relationship-centered leadership curriculum with colleagues from School of Nursing and School of Medicine.


**Grant:** Ultragenyx and poster presented at the 2022 NORD Rare Diseases and Orphan Products Breakthrough Summit. 2021, 2022.

Amber Kelly  
*Associate Professor*

**Publication:** Kelly, A. Abolition Conversation Workshop (monthly) Series (facilitator), 2022
Building a foundation ahead of the 2029 Centennial Celebration

Quinnipiac has enjoyed a distinguished history of philanthropic support with a dedicated base of alumni, parents and friends. Collectively, our stakeholders are genuinely committed to the success of our fundraising, which helps secure the future of the university. As we begin to consider our centennial milestone, we have ambitious goals that will prepare us for the next 100 years. Stay tuned for news of our campus master plan and opportunities to establish new and endowed funds at QU.

Each school at Quinnipiac has made its academic and professional mark, and each school participates in ongoing fundraising to supplement and enhance its ability to deliver on its respective mission. The School of Health Sciences prepares students to tackle major challenges inherent in 21st-century patient care and medical research. Our donors value the importance of higher education and leverage their philanthropic investment by directing their generosity toward our faculty, staff and students who will be invaluable leaders in their chosen fields.

Our highly skilled, compassionate alumni are forward-thinking clinicians, imaging professionals, rehabilitation specialists and scientists.

Quinnipiac is poised to become the University of the Future as we prepare our students for 21st-century careers and global citizenship. The continued excellence of the Quinnipiac School of Health Sciences and unique student experiences are directly linked to the generosity of our alumni, parents and friends.

Whether providing a deserving student access through scholarship funding or supporting our cutting-edge clinical experiences, our philanthropic partners are reimagining the future of Health Science education.

For more information on how you can also make a lasting difference, please contact Alexis Salsedo-Surovov, PhD, CFRE, Senior Director of Development for Health Affairs, at alexis.salsedo-surovov@qu.edu or 203-582-4515.

Molding the next generation of School of Health Sciences graduates

Make a direct impact on your alma mater and the future of our professions by serving as a preceptor or clinical mentor for one of our nationally ranked programs. Whether Occupational Therapy or Physician Assistant, without the right preceptor, the transition from classroom to patient’s room can be difficult, but a preceptor who demonstrates how to turn classroom theory into skilled clinical practice can put a new practitioner on the path to clinical excellence.

While providing an essential service to our students, you can be rewarded by helping transform the future of healthcare through your work with our students. Please contact shsdeans@qu.edu for more information.

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Our Commitment
Quinnipiac University has a strong commitment to the principles and practices of diversity throughout the Quinnipiac community. Members of minority groups and individuals with disabilities are encouraged to consider and apply for admission. Quinnipiac University does not discriminate based on race, color, creed, gender, age, sexual orientation, national and ethnic origin or disability status in the administration of its educational and admissions policies, employment policies, scholarship and loan programs, athletic programs or other university-administered programs.