



# NEWSLETTER

2020  
SPRING

## FROM THE DEAN'S OFFICE

**Greetings! Welcome to the NJCU College of Professional Studies newsletter.**

The mission of the College of Professional Studies is to educate individuals from diverse communities to succeed in their professional goals and personal aspirations and to effectively contribute to society. Our engaging learning environment encourages students to become self-motivated learners who can think analytically, locate resources, solve problems creatively, and master essential technical skills.

The College attracts career-minded students who are eager to learn skills that are most critical to launching or advancing their professional lives, and our learning community welcomes both traditional and non-traditional students. NJCU's urban location is an integral part of the student experience, and is the perfect setting for educating students who will thrive in today's fast-paced world.

I hope you enjoy hearing about just some of the wonderful achievements of our talented community.

Sincerely,

Michael Edmondson  
Interim Dean, College of Professional Studies

## WELCOME NEW FACULTY

NJCU Fire Science Department **Professor Michael Hurley** recently received the Air Force Distinguished Public Service Medal for serving on the US Air Force Chief of Staff Civic Leadership Team. The medal is granted by the Secretary of the Air Force for exceptionally significant and profound contributions on a national level to further Air Force missions. The team is comprised of individuals selected from Air Force major commands and participants are advisors, communicators and advocates for a variety of issues and serve as the interface between the Air Force and civilian community to interpret, clarify and explain programs, positions, and other areas of interest through various outreach efforts. Members also provide information, findings, guidance and advice to the Secretary of the Air Force, Air Force Chief of Staff and Air Force senior leadership. Pictured is Professor Hurley receiving the award from General David Goldfein, Chief of Staff, United States Air Force.



## NJCU MOCK TRIAL TEAM

Written by Dr. Esther Nir

The NJCU Mock Trial Team had an incredible and successful season this year. Representing NJCU at American Mock Trial Association invitationals, we participated in many competitions against a host of universities (14 this season alone) throughout the 2019-2020 competitive season. We traveled to invitational and regional tournaments and hosted two scrimmages on our campus. Beyond the actual team wins and individual student rankings, we learned to work together as a team. The sportsmanship, hard work, and comradery of the student members was inspiring.

In February we competed at the AMTA Regional Championships in New Rochelle. While this tournament ended our competitive season, we performed better than ever before. We also won ballots against University of Buffalo and Holy Cross and many of our members ranked first or second in several rounds. We wish to congratulate our students Arisha Andha, Sebastian Duarte, Nermeen Girgis, Andy Guevara, Paola Eusebio, Paola Maldonado, Brian Nina, Raymond Smikle, Jessica Menjivar and Georglana Balisage. A special shout out to our captains – Arisha and Sebastian – for their incredible leadership. We also want to acknowledge Brian Nina, who won the AMTA Outstanding Witness Award for his heart-wrenching portrayal of the defendant. Brian managed to get into character and began crying at opening statements and kept it going for hours – a few judges were amazed by the commitment! We also would like to acknowledge our seniors – Georglana and Brian – we will miss them terribly next year!



We now begin our off-season efforts and team members have already started recruitment efforts for next year; we are also discussing the possibility of hosting a full tournament for 20 other universities on our campus. We are excited to include new team members and to take our skills to the next level. Go NJCU!

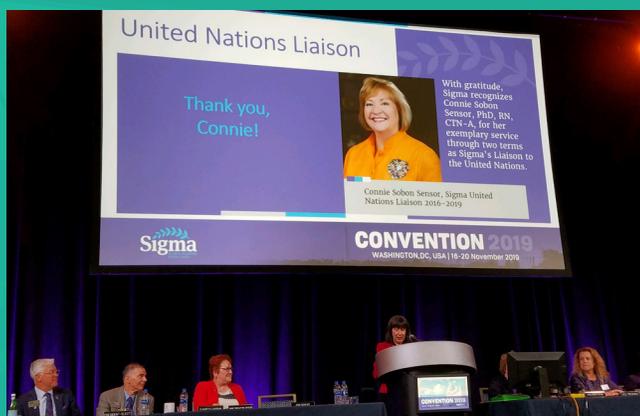


## NURSING DEPARTMENT NEWS

Kappa Eta Chapter of Sigma, the International Honor Society of Nursing, at New Jersey City University Nursing Department is the recipient of a seventh Key Award. The key award created in 1994 is given to chapters every two years who demonstrate excellence in chapter activities, scholarship, service, leadership and commitment to nursing. Eric Tiernan, the President of Kappa Eta chapter, accepted the award at the 45th biennium convention. In addition, from 2013 - 2019, Kappa Eta received the Sigma excellence awards for chapter activities.



## CONNIE SOBON SENSOR, PHD, RN, CTN-A



Connie is a 1981 graduate of the RN-BSN Program in the Nursing Department. She obtained a diploma in nursing from Englewood Hospital School of Nursing; earned an MSN from Kean University and a PhD from Seton Hall University with a research focus on global health and the power of culturally responsive nursing. She is a faculty member in the Nursing Department at Rutgers University. She is an active member of Sigma, the International Honor Society of Nursing with extensive leadership experience at the international, regional and chapter levels of Sigma. Additionally, Dr. Sensor is the president of the Northeast Chapter of the Transcultural Nursing Society.

Connie was recognized at the recent Sigma Theta Tau International biennium in Washington, DC for her expertise as Sigma's liaison to the United Nations (UN) on global health. She has presented and published on many global topics. In July 2019, she presented to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (UN) on *Empowering People and Ensuring Inclusiveness and Equality*. In February 2020, she participated in a radio interview with Dr. Joyce Batcheller from the Center on Healthcare Professionals on *OO* that examined global health issues and strategies for nurses to engage in the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

As Past President of Kappa Eta chapter at New Jersey City University, Connie remains an active member.

## TARA MAZZONE MARKO, RN, MS

Tara, a graduate of the RN-BSN program, presented at the recent 45<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention in Washington, DC on her research *A Scoping Review of Nurses' Contributions to Health-Related Wildfire Research*. Her goal is to explore the effects of wildfires on maternal – child health. She earned a MS in Nursing Administration at Seton Hall University and presently is a doctoral student at Washington State University. She is a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) nurse at Redy Children's Hospital and nursing clinical professor at California State University. Tara is co-author of the book, *Neonatal Pain Assessment*. Her experiences in the NICU that identified the critical need for clinicians to monitor pain management in this fragile population was the impetus for the research. Tara was past president of Kappa Eta Chapter of Sigma, the International Honor Society of Nursing. She remains an active member and involved at the local, regional and international levels of Sigma.

