



Summer 2026

Greetings from the Dean

Dear Berkley School of Nursing Community,

As we share this summer issue of *CURA*, our hearts are heavy as we join countless others in mourning the passing of William R. Berkley, a visionary leader, philanthropist, and true champion of education and healthcare.



Mr. Berkley's extraordinary legacy extends far beyond his remarkable professional accomplishments. Through his and his family's profound generosity, including the transformational support that led to the naming of the Berkley School of Nursing, he created endless opportunities for others to learn, lead, and serve. His life reflected a deep belief in the transformative power of education and the importance of advancing health and well-being for all. We extend our heartfelt condolences to the Berkley family and all who were touched by his remarkable life.

Our recent 2026 Commencement ceremonies help animate his legacy. The graduates who crossed the stage this spring carry forward the compassion, leadership, and commitment to improving the health and well-being of the communities they serve. Their accomplishments reflect the values that define the Berkley School of Nursing and the promise of nursing to create meaningful change. I encourage you to [read our Commencement coverage](#) and [listen to the inspiring address by our Commencement Speaker, Mary Wakefield, Ph.D., R.N.](#), to experience the remarkable spirit of the day.

Throughout this issue, you will find stories of students, faculty, and staff who continue to carry that same spirit forward every day. From [celebrating National Nurses Week](#) and advancing maternal health through [new national research on midwife-led care](#), to collaborating across disciplines to [address challenges of global disaster response](#), our community is leading with purpose and making a meaningful impact locally and around the world.

As our community continues this important work, Georgetown also enters a new chapter as we [welcome incoming President Eduardo Peñaflor this July](#). It is a season marked by both legacy and renewal, and I look forward to all that we will accomplish together.

I hope these stories offer a sense of pride and inspiration for the season. Thank you for being a vital partner in our mission and for helping sustain the meaningful work that defines Berkley School of Nursing.

Wishing you a joyful, restorative, and safe summer.

Roberta Waite, Ed.D., R.N., PMHCNS, ANEF, FADLN, FAAN
Dean, Berkley School of Nursing

COMMENCEMENT HIGHLIGHTS



'Nursing's Values Are Your North Star': Berkley School of Nursing Celebrates Class of 2026

Graduates gathered on Healy Lawn to celebrate commencement surrounded by family, friends, and faculty as they prepared to enter the next chapter of their nursing careers. Mary Wakefield, Ph.D., R.N., former acting deputy secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, received an honorary Doctor of Science degree and delivered the commencement address, reflecting on her own nursing journey guided by the underlying principles of the nursing profession. [Read more >](#)



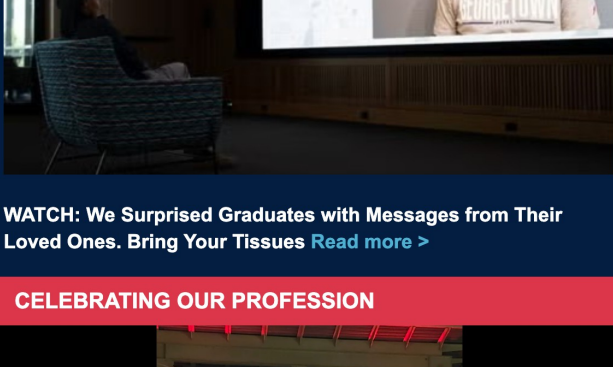
Faculty Celebrate Student Achievements in Annual Tropaia Ceremony [Read more >](#)



Graduates Celebrate Annual Nursing Traditions at 2026 Pinning and Blessing of the Hands Ceremonies [Read more >](#)



Speaker Highlight: Mary Wakefield, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN [Read more >](#)



WATCH: We Surprised Graduates with Messages from Their Loved Ones. Bring Your Tissues [Read more >](#)

CELEBRATING OUR PROFESSION



Nurses Light Up The Sky

Throughout National Nurses Week, our St. Mary's Hall home on campus shone brightly at night as we proudly joined a nationwide movement to "Light Up the Sky" in honor of the incredible nurses who make a difference every day. As a school dedicated to preparing the next generation of nurse leaders, we were proud to participate in this nationwide tribute and celebrate the extraordinary impact of nurses. [Read more >](#)



Celebrating National Nurses Week

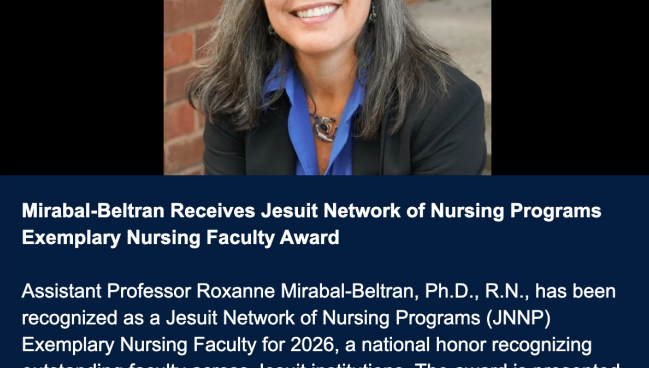
More than 60 alumni, faculty, students, and friends of BSON gathered in New York City in May for the school's annual National Nurses Week Hoya Nursing Social. The evening celebrated the nursing profession and brought together members of the Georgetown nursing community for conversation, reflection, and connection during National Nurses Week. [Read more >](#)

ADVANCING NURSING & SCHOLARSHIP



BSON and Global Health Institute Host Interdisciplinary Case Challenge on Disaster Response

Over 50 participants representing 10 academic programs across Georgetown came together for the third INSPIRE Case Challenge, a virtual interdisciplinary competition hosted by BSON and the Global Health Institute. [Read more >](#)



Mirabal-Beltran Receives Jesuit Network of Nursing Programs Exemplary Nursing Faculty Award

Assistant Professor Roxanne Mirabal-Beltran, Ph.D., R.N., has been recognized as a Jesuit Network of Nursing Programs (JNNP) Exemplary Nursing Faculty for 2026, a national honor recognizing outstanding faculty across Jesuit institutions. The award is presented by the Jesuit Network of Nursing Programs, a consortium of more than 20 Jesuit colleges and universities committed to advancing nursing education grounded in Jesuit values. [Read more >](#)



Faculty Publish National Review on Outcomes of Midwife-Led Care

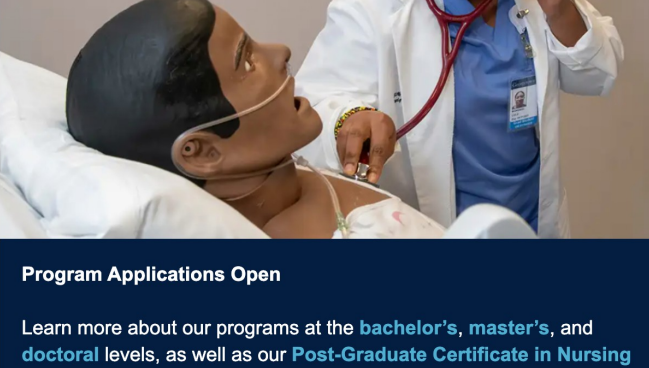
A comprehensive review of U.S. research led by Emma Virginia Clark, Ph.D., MHS, CNM, FACNM, assistant professor at BSON and director of nursing research at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital, and senior author Heather Bradford, Ph.D., CNM, FACNM, assistant professor of nursing, found that care delivered by certified nurse-midwives and certified midwives is consistently associated with lower intervention rates, improved birth outcomes, and high patient satisfaction. The findings reinforce the important role of certified nurse-midwives and certified midwives in advancing maternal health. [Read more >](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Opportunities and Resources for Displaced Federal Workers and Georgetown Alumni

We deeply value the service and dedication of federal workers and are committed to supporting our alumni and current students during this period of change. We recognize that recent changes across the federal workforce have created uncertainty for many, and we are committed to supporting you during this time of transition. Whether you are exploring a new path, seeking stability, or considering a shift into a health-related field, Georgetown is here to help you take your next step with confidence. [Read more >](#)



Program Applications Open

Learn more about our programs at the [bachelor's](#), [master's](#), and [doctoral](#) levels, as well as our [Post-Graduate Certificate in Nursing programs](#).

Join Our Faculty Team

Building on a 120-year tradition of excellence in nursing education at the professional, advanced practice, and doctoral levels, we seek faculty who share our vision of preparing nurse leaders to advance social justice, promote health equity for all, and shape the future of nursing. [Learn more >](#)

Georgetown's Berkley School of Nursing is making enduring contributions to the nation's largest health care profession. Your support is essential as we work to advance the education of tomorrow's health care leaders.

MAKE A GIFT

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