March Not Just for Basketball

Team from left: Brian Noonan, Sarah Mansell, Kelly Mitchell, Alexandra DiNicola, Kristen Ruskuski, Katey Scheeler.

College basketball players and future registered nurses share something in common – their own versions of March Madness. The Quiz Bowl Team from Joseph F. McCloskey School of Nursing made it to all the way to the semifinals last week in the 14th annual Geoffrey Walp Student Nurse Challenge. This year’s program was held on the campus at East Stroudsburg University. Lehigh Valley Health Network was one of the sponsors.

Seniors Alexandra DiNicola, Sarah Mansell, Kelly Mitchell, Brian Noonan, Kristen Ruskuski and Katey Scheeler began practicing twice a week for the competition six weeks ago.

“We are so proud of our students and all the teams,” says Marianne Wollyung, MSN, RN, a medical/surgical nursing instructor who attended the challenge to support our team. “Students were asked actual National Nursing Exam questions and rang in to answer. They were well prepared and had strong knowledge of the subject matter.” Students of the McCloskey School of Nursing have participated in the competition since 2005.

The event tests students’ knowledge in multiple areas of nursing practice. Its purpose is to help nursing students prepare for the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN), a mandatory test that will grant licensure into professional practice. NCLEX-RN is a national, standardized, multiple-choice exam for registered nurses developed and controlled by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing. The exam is related to the job functions most commonly required of entry-level RNs. The exam tests current medical knowledge, nursing competencies and determines eligibility to earn an RN license and begin working as a registered nurse.

The student nurse challenge is a quiz bowl competition comprising nursing student teams from Northeast Pennsylvania. This year’s teams included Bloomsburg University, Penn State Worthington, Luzerne County Community College, Wilkes University, Marywood University, East Stroudsburg University and Joseph F. McCloskey School of Nursing.

Promoted to Director of Public Safety and Security

John T. “Jack” Brobst has been promoted to Director of Public Safety and Security at LVH-Schuylkill. The announcement was made by Gabriel Kamarousky, Vice President of Operations. Brobst has been with LVH–Schuylkill for 29 years and most recently served as Emergency Management Coordinator. He is a Master Exercise Practitioner through the Federal Emergency Management Agency and has served multiple terms as Chairman of the East Central Task Force Health and Medical Committee, which includes Schuylkill, Berks, Northumberland, Montour, Columbia, Wyoming and Luzerne counties. In this new position, Brobst will coordinate and lead safety, security and emergency management functions for LVH–Schuylkill facilities, working closely with the health network’s department of Public Safety and Security.
Lynn Turner’s Goal: Create an Exceptional Colleague Experience

Even before Lynn Turner joined LVHN, she was well aware of our organization. While working as Human Resources (HR) Director at Atlantic Health System, a fellow member of AllSpire Health Partners, Turner recognized LVHN has a culture in which colleagues are highly valued. And so, when Turner considered looking for new career challenges and opportunities, LVHN caught her attention.

“The culture of the organization was very important to me,” Turner says. “I wanted to work in health care, a positive work environment and a great community. I found it all here.”

Turner joined LVHN as Senior Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer in January, replacing Debby Patrick upon her retirement. Turner spent her first few weeks getting to know her HR colleagues, meeting other leaders and learning about LVHN. It didn’t take long before she started taking action to achieve her long-term goals. “I want to create an exceptional colleague experience from the minute an individual is contacted by our talent consultants until they choose to leave the health network,” Turner says.

Turner’s experience gives her the knowledge and skills to achieve her goals. In 2017, Atlantic Health System appeared on the Fortune 100 Best Companies to Work For list for the ninth time. She knows what it takes to create a great place to work and receive care. “A work environment that encourages compassion and innovation coupled with employees who are fulfilled personally and professionally,” Turner says. “That’s what leads to success.”

In the short time she’s been here, Turner has taken steps to enhance communication between senior leaders and front-line staff. She’s also working with leaders to implement network-wide programs that address the feedback suggested in the Colleague Survey. “It will not be one thing, but many things, that will create an environment in which we will continue to be recognized as the employer of choice in the region.”

Turner is new to our region. The daughter of New York City school teachers, she grew up on Staten Island, NY. While attending St. Bonaventure University, she met and married her college sweetheart, Patrick, who currently is an attorney in private practice. She received her MBA at Pace University.

Other than spending time with her husband and their twin daughters, Turner is passionate about creating a healthier community. She’s an advocate for the education and recovery of eating disorders in teens, and enjoys participating in 5K runs. And when it’s time for a little R&R, Long Beach Island is her happy place.

Your happiness is Turner’s focus as she begins this new chapter in her career. “Great places to work consistently recognize employee accomplishments, provide opportunities for professional development, and attract and retain an experienced workforce,” she says. “LVHN already is a great place to work, and I’m excited to help make it even better.”
LVHN, VA Agreement Expands Veterans Choice Program

LVHN has signed an agreement with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) that expands care in the network for patients under the Veterans Choice Program to the health network’s inpatient hospital campuses and many Lehigh Valley Physician Group (LVPG) practices. The agreement took effect in January 2017.

Under the agreement, the VA recognizes LVHN as a Veterans Choice Program provider to offer the full continuum of health services in partnership with the Wilkes-Barre Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC). LVHN will provide private sector care when patients cannot be accommodated by the VA due to lack of available medical specialists, extended wait times for appointments at a VAMC or extraordinary distance from the veteran’s home.

“We continue to build on LVHN’s long-time commitment to providing military men and women and their families the best possible access, care and quality outcomes,” said LVHN President and CEO Brian Nester, DO, MBA, FACOEP. “More than 50,000 veterans live in the greater Lehigh Valley, yet too many go unnoticed in today’s health care environment. We are committed to improving care for veterans including a focus on educating physicians and other clinical staff to recognize and understand veterans’ unique needs.”

In 2012, LVHN charted a formal network-wide Patient-Centered Experience initiative around improving services for veterans. Nester cited increased awareness of the unique cultural experiences and medical needs of military men and women, including post-traumatic stress symptoms that might go unrecognized in health care settings designed to treat the needs of the general population. LVHN also has begun providing referral coordination and navigation for veterans with complex medical and social needs through an on-site veteran health liaison.

Additionally, in October 2013 following a year-long regional study with the Lehigh Valley Military Affairs Council (LVMAC), all area hospitals took the critical step of screening patients to capture their veteran status in their electronic medical record. “Asking this question has allowed our clinicians to go at least one step further to ask about military service, deployments and experiences that could better tailor the care to the veterans specific needs,” Nester says.

LVHN, VA Agreement Expands Veterans Choice Program

Signs of progress are all around us. Our Medical Mall facility on Schuylkill Manor Road behind LVH–Schuylkill E. Norwegian Street has been fitted with its health network signage. Over the coming weeks, you will see color change on sign boxes reflecting the LVHN brand colors and new facility signage going into place.

All LVHN and LVPG–Schuylkill areas that haven’t yet changed facility signs will soon be reflecting our brand. Those to be changed very soon include:
- Outpatient Surgery Center
- Rehabilitation Center–Schuylkill
- Schuylkill Medical Plaza
- Frackville
- Orwigsburg
- St. Clair
- Pine Grove

Others such as MRI, Women’s Imaging Center and Sleep Disorders Center, are in the planning.

Free AFib Info Event

Tuesday, April 25 - 6 p.m.
LVH–Schuylkill E. Norwegian St.
Wall Auditorium

Learn about:
- Signs and symptoms
- When to see a cardiologist
- Treatments that improve symptoms and prevent stroke
- New, minimally invasive procedures for people with irregular heartbeat

Speakers:
Cardiologists Tariq Hafiz, MD, and Talha Nazir, MD

Call 610-402-CARE to register.

Getting Ready for the Gala

There is still time to reserve your space

M&T Bank has pledged its support to the LVH–Schuylkill Gala. From left: Auxiliary Liaison Mary Bardell, Debra Kukta, Gala Co-Chair and M&T colleague with LVH–Schuylkill President Bill Reppy and Gala Co-Chair Chris DeCilli.

Members of the Lehigh Valley Hospital–Schuylkill Auxiliary are putting finishing touches on the 2017 Gala. “There is still time to be part of this event,” says Mary Bardell, Auxiliary Liaison. “Our gala co-chairs and their team are working on those fine details that will make this event the success that it has come to be.”

The annual gala serves as the Auxil-