Alum of the month

Jenna Barta, BSN, RN-BC
Director of Education & Quality
Comfort Home Care
CHHS- Class of ’004 (Nursing)

What are you currently doing? What is the most rewarding aspect of your career?
I went from bedside charge nursing, to case management, into a Director’s position for a case management company. I oversee the Education/Staff development & QI/QA departments, where one of the most rewarding aspects is teaching and cultivating the skills of our clinicians to provide the best care to our clients, many of whom are of low socioeconomic status. I’m also passionate about working with nursing students, and currently work with many colleges and universities to oversee their clinical preceptorships.

What do you know now that you wish you’d known while an undergrad?
As much as nursing school, especially at UNH, prepares you for so much, many new graduate RN’s are task oriented. Never forget your patient is someone’s family. Yes, checking the MD orders, finishing your bedside assessment, and passing medications are important- but so is the person in front of you.

What experiences and/or people have significantly impacted your career journey?
My clinical experience at UNH was invaluable, especially in my senior year, where one learns to take a full assignment as a floor RN, which I did at Concord Hospital. Former UNH faculty members, Jeff Eaton, Kate Collopy, as well as Emergency Department physician, Dr. Russell Kay, continue to influence my practice to this day.

(Jum of the Month Cont. on Page 2)
Upcoming Events & Conferences

Upcoming Events & Conferences

Do you have ideas, events, photos, updates, jobs, to share for the upcoming December Newsletter?
Contact CHHS Career Counselor, Komal Shah: komal.shah@unh.edu

Mon / Tues / Wed
1:00 - 3:00 P.M.
Hewitt 217B

What advice do you have for students interested in your field?

I personally found it to be very beneficial to work in some kind of hands-on patient care during nursing school. From learning the style of your bed side manner, to patient safety, communication, hospital, nursing, and general patient care basics- the benefits are immeasurable. There are so many different types of opportunities in the field of nursing, the possibilities are endless. I encourage starting with a general specialty like medical-surgical nursing to build upon your fundamentals from nursing school. This will enhance assessment skills & establish yourself as an appealing hire when venturing further into your career.

How did you obtain your first job after graduation? What steps did you take, and what would you recommend to others?

My very first job, as a high school sophomore, was obtained by finding the Nurse Manager of the hospital floor, and introducing myself after I had applied for the Unit Secretary position in Human Resources. She has always said she credits this to why she hired me, as a young kid, among others, and continued to rehire me to different positions on the floor, including a new graduate RN. I worked on that same floor for over 10 years as a nursing aide all the way to a charge nurse years later. In such a technological & social media world, I suggest not forgetting the basics.

Based on your experiences and education, what skills do you think have been the most helpful in your career?

I worked as a Unit Secretary as well as Nursing Assistant throughout high school and college which undoubtedly prepared me for nursing school, especially with my bedside manner in working with patients during some of the most overwhelming and difficult times in their lives. I am also an advocate for the American Nurse Credentialing Center (ANCC) Board Certifications in specialty areas which greatly expand ones knowledge base & growth as well as raise the standard of practice for our profession.

Pro Tip: Dedicate some time during the break to serving your local community, and don’t forget to add it to your resume!

Compliments of
Handshake
Handshake is an online recruiting and job platform that connects college students to employers. To know more about the jobs below (and many others!) log in through your Handshake account.

North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health #2151862 Molecular Laboratory Supervisor
Harbor Homes #2092038 Case Manager - Support Services for Veterans Families SSVF
Easterseals NH #2043134 Care Coordinator- Military and Veterans Services
Alzheimer’s Association #2130292 Family Services Internship #1276690 Event Planning and Promotion Internship
Blackstone Valley Prep #2097994 - Speech and Language Pathologist
ATC Healthcare
Genesis HealthCare
The Guild for Human Services Community Partners
Hanover Hill Health Care Center

LinkedIn Express: Update your LinkedIn Profile with professional help from our CHHS career counselors
Hewill Hall Lobby

Jan 29 Part-time and Work Study Job Fair
1:00 pm- 4:00 pm
MUB | Strafford Room

Jan 29 Resume Review Day with Industry Experts
1:00 pm- 4:00 pm
MUB | Granite State & Strafford Rooms

Feb 26 Career and Internship Fair
1:00 pm- 5:00 pm
Whittmore Center

Pro Tip: Dedicate some time during the break to serving your local community, and don’t forget to add it to your resume!

Handshake
Featured Jobs/ internships

Handshake is an online recruiting and job platform that connects college students to employers. To know more about the jobs below (and many others!) log in through your Handshake account.

North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health #2151862 Molecular Laboratory Supervisor
Harbor Homes #2092038 Case Manager - Support Services for Veterans Families SSVF
Easterseals NH #2043134 Care Coordinator- Military and Veterans Services
Alzheimer’s Association #2130292 Family Services Internship #1276690 Event Planning and Promotion Internship
Blackstone Valley Prep #2097994 - Speech and Language Pathologist
ATC Healthcare
Genesis HealthCare
The Guild for Human Services Community Partners
Hanover Hill Health Care Center

LinkedIn Express: Update your LinkedIn Profile with professional help from our CHHS career counselors
Hewill Hall Lobby

Jan 29 Part-time and Work Study Job Fair
1:00 pm- 4:00 pm
MUB | Strafford Room

Jan 29 Resume Review Day with Industry Experts
1:00 pm- 4:00 pm
MUB | Granite State & Strafford Rooms

Feb 26 Career and Internship Fair
1:00 pm- 5:00 pm
Whittmore Center

Pro Tip: Dedicate some time during the break to serving your local community, and don’t forget to add it to your resume!

#2097994 - Speech and Language Pathologist
#2166745 PICU Registered Nurse
#2171797 Recreation Assistant
#1951243 Speech Language Pathologist
#2171945 Job & Life Skills Coach
#1743124 Registered Nurse

Do you have ideas, events, photos, updates, jobs, to share for the upcoming December Newsletter?
Contact CHHS Career Counselor, Komal Shah: komal.shah@unh.edu