

## The John A. Hartford Foundation's Building Academic Geriatric Nursing Capacity Program (BAGNC)

I'M ON THE BAGNC FAST TRACK BECAUSE, FRANKLY,  
OLDER ADULTS NEED ME TO BE.



Casey Shillam,  
PhD, RN

*Doctoral Candidate*  
Oregon Health &  
Science University

*Instructor*  
School of Nursing  
University of Portland

More than ever before, older people now enter what nursing used to call the 'heavy care' years still in good health. These folks have expectations that they'll continue to enjoy active, productive and fulfilling lives.

Thanks to BAGNC, I'm on the fast track to help older adults achieve those goals. Five years ago, I earned my undergrad degree in nursing. I've completed my masters and have almost completed my Ph.D. on the impact of symptoms on physical function. Fortunately, I was able to balance a limited clinical practice — with older adults — during my studies and research.

And because I'm a Hartford Scholar, I've had the opportunity to collaborate with professionals in other disciplines who also are committed to making a positive difference for older people, both through improvements in care and advances in public policy.

As an instructor, I'm in a position to influence the next generation of nurses. Some of my students say, 'I want to care for babies.' I tell them, 'Older adults are exciting, too. They're so approachable and independent-minded.' I also remind them that as our population ages, all of us inevitably will find ourselves caring for older people. There will be great demand for these skills!

Helping people enjoy a healthy aging process is a great career full of exciting challenges and memorable experiences. The BAGNC program prepares experts in geriatric nursing education and leadership so that more nurses have the chance to be part of this exciting field.

*Predoctoral BSN-PhD Scholar Casey Shillam  
talks about her experiences on the fast track to a  
gerontological nursing leadership position through  
the Hartford Foundation's BAGNC Scholars Program.*



## Building Academic Geriatric Nursing Capacity (BAGNC) Awards Program

The American Academy of Nursing, with support from the John A. Hartford Foundation of New York City, seeks applications for the following Hartford Scholarship:

The **Hartford BAGNC Predoctoral Scholarship Program** is designed to support two years of doctoral work for nurses committed to careers in academic geriatric nursing. The program offers support for tuition and fees and up to \$30,000 in stipend for each of the two years, not to exceed \$50,000 per year.

The Mayday Fund provides an *additional \$5,000 award* to selected candidates whose research includes the study of pain in elders.

Details about the Predoctoral Scholarship Program and application materials can be found on our web site:

[www.geriatricnursing.org/applications](http://www.geriatricnursing.org/applications)

### APPLICATIONS DUE IN JANUARY



The John A. Hartford Foundation's overall goal is to increase the nation's capacity to provide effective and affordable care to its rapidly increasing older population.

T H E

**M A Y D A Y**

F U N D

The Mayday Fund is dedicated to alleviating the incidence, degree and consequence of human physical pain.