

# 2023 I VOLUME 32, NUMBER 1 GUSTAVUS NURSING DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

# **GREETINGS FROM THE DEPARTMENT CHAIR**

Dear Gustavus Nursing Alumni and Friends,

It is an absolute pleasure to share with you the 2022–2023 annual department newsletter from the Gustavus Nursing Program. Another academic year has come and gone on the Hill. And with it, the graduation of 30 competent and caring new nurses ready and eager to forge ahead to provide care for patients, communities, and the global society. With an earnest passion for advocacy and safe patient care, it is exciting to think about the impact these young nurses will have while acting on the great healthcare challenges of our times. At the same time, it is humbling to think of the paths that have been paved for their success by all of you, our Gustavus Nursing alumni.

The summer "hiatus" from teaching allows for reflection on departmental program goals and thoughtful planning for continual improvement. The Gustavus Nursing Program has seven overarching program goals that guide us, and they are presented within this newsletter. This past year was a momentous one. Our program was able to effectively utilize a renovated Mattson Hall to create engaged and contextual classroom and clinical simulation learning environments for now up to 40 students per cohort (Program Goal 2). The Department also utilized additional funds made available through alumni donations and established endowments to purchase two task trainer mannequins and updated IV pumps for the Contextual Learning Lab. While all seven goals are critical to our success and integrated into program planning, the Department will be prioritizing recruiting, retaining, and supporting qualified and diverse nursing students committed to academic excellence, professional development, and service (Program Goal 5) and recruiting and retaining diverse Nursing faculty (Program Goal 7) for the 2023–24 academic year.

We appreciate the continued support from you, our alumni, families, and friends. We hope you enjoy this newsletter as a peek into the events within the Gustavus Nursing Program and curriculum this past year, and we welcome your reflections, suggestions, and innovative ideas for advancing the development of holistic Gustavus nurses.



With gratitude,

Heating

Heidi Meyer-PhD, RN, PHN Associate Professor of Nursing, Department Chair

# GAC NURSING MENTORS ON FACEBOOK

Our mentorship program for nursing students and grads is on Facebook: GAC Nursing Mentors. This site allows for students and alumni to connect, foster relationships, and engage in meaningful discussions. Scan the QR code to join the group!



# NURSING DEPARTMENT NEWS/UPDATES



# Jessica Stadick, PhD, RN, PHN | Associate Professor

Greetings alumni and friends! The 2022–23 academic year was filled with many positives, but the following few are my favorite highlights:

- Expansion of the Nursing program continues to be the most exciting news that has emerged from the past two years! By taking more than 30 students, we can educate more liberal arts-prepared nurses to enter the workforce during such an important time. It is a great time to be a nurse!
- I have continued to serve on the leadership team for inclusive teaching excellence. Gustavus is part of a multi-year, multiinstitution initiative funded by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute focused on inclusive pedagogy. I am honored to be a part of this initiative as we strive for inclusive teaching. This year we made many strides and will start implementing some of the initiatives this fall. I am part of the group that will focus on helping students become agents of inclusion. Inclusivity is so important and I am honored Gustavus is helping move this forward.
- Lastly, a HUGE thank you to our alumni for such generous donations. Through these donations, we have added invaluable equipment to our lab and simulation suites. We have added another new simulator to our lab, critical care medications, and IV pumps that match the hospitals we do clinical in, just to name a few! Thank you!



# Lynnea Myers, PhD, PhD, RN, PHN | Associate Professor

- Recently completed a sabbatical in Stockholm, Sweden working on a research project using digital tools for the treatment and management of asthma with the Mayo Clinic, the Karolinska Institute, and MediTuner.
- Hosted a Gustavus Nursing student (Emily Norman) in January 2023 at the Karolinska Institute and MediTuner to learn more about digital health and asthma care.
- Returned to teaching Intro to Public Health, Transitions to Professional Practice, and Research and Ethics courses for spring 2023 and was able to integrate some content and lessons learned from my sabbatical to the Research and Ethics course, specifically.



# Jessica Helget, MSN, RN, PHN | Continuing Faculty, Simulation

Greetings from Gustavus Nursing Department! Another year has come and gone up here on the Hill! Many great things have happened on campus this year. A few to highlight are:

- With the remodel of our current space and with the expansion of the Nursing Department, I have transitioned into a Simulation Faculty role. My primary focus is to provide realistic and immersive learning experiences for students in order to develop the tools necessary for handing real-world situations, all in a low-risk simulated environment. Through program growth and support, the Nursing Department has been able to utilize high-fidelity and up-to-date technology to meet the fast demands of medicine to provide our students with the most paramount simulated environments as possible.
- Attending a phenomenal simulation conference, hosted by Mayo Clinic, was a highlight of my year, as I was able to connect with many simulation experts throughout the nation. Nursing department colleague, Abbie McCabe, and I were able to collaborate at this conference and bring many ideas and excitement back to Gustavus.
- Gustavus Student Nurses Association (GSNA) had an exciting and productive year. The students led a succulent plant sale, coordinated a successful blood drive with the American Red Cross, and co-hosted a wellbeing event with yard games, pizza and BUBBL'R. These events were quite a hit on campus and provided impressive services and fun to the Gustie nurses and greater Gustavus Community!

It has been a wonderful year here at Gustavus and I look forward to the next academic year with great excitement!

# **GUSTAVUS NURSING FACULTY COMINGS & GOINGS**

Please join the Gustavus Nursing community in welcoming Brittany Otto, Visiting Instructor in Nursing

Please join the Gustavus Nursing community in saying farewell to *Professor* Dr. Barb Zust '76 (retirement), *Associate Professor* Dr. Lynnea Myers '05, *Visiting Instructor* Meagan Crary, *Clinical Faculty* Suzanne Chatters, Katie Erickson, Sophie Hajder '18, Rebecca Henderson, Laura Ingalsbe '07, and Allison Snede.





# Abigail McCabe, MSN, RN, PHN | Continuing Faculty, Simulation Coordinator, Clinical Coordinator

- I am excited to be on board as a new full-time Continuing Nursing Faculty this school year!
- During the "Elements, Essentials, and Excellence in Healthcare Simulation" conference in March 2023 I learned many new tips and tricks.
- We were able to purchase another much-needed medium-fidelity mannequin for the lab this spring ("Junie") to aid the students in refining their nursing skills.



#### Barbara Zust, PhD, RN | Professor

Dr. Barbara Zust has retired from Gustavus and the Department of Nursing after 23 years of teaching and leadership. Barb taught numerous content areas in the program, most recently maternal-child health, mental health, research, and numerous study-away courses in Africa, India, and Sweden. She also developed a native wellbeing and Alaska Natives course that included the integration of one-of-a-kind clinical immersion experience for Gustavus Nursing students in Alaska that continues to this day. Barb was one of the first faculty members within the Nursing Department to obtain her PhD and has been an inspiration to students and colleagues to pursue advanced education, especially related to qualitative nursing research. Barb created a niche

for the Nursing major on campus to educate future nurses to think like scientists. She mentored countless students to perform independent research studies with her and guided them to present regionally, nationally, and internationally, along with publishing their work in a variety of formats. Her creativity and passion for teaching and helping students achieve their highest level is evidenced by her being only one of two Nursing faculty members to date to receive the Edgar M. Carlson Award for Distinguished Teaching at Gustavus, the College's most prestigious award for faculty members who demonstrate the highest excellence in teaching.

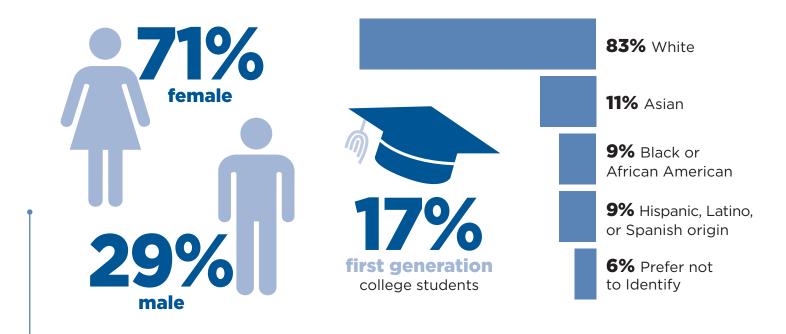


Barb Zust (center) celebrating retirement with Nursing Professor Emeriti Judith Gardner, Jane Coleman, Kay Moline, and Paula Swiggum.

# **GUSTAVUS NURSING PROGRAM GOALS**

- 1. Develop and update mission, goals, and expected program outcomes that are congruent with the institutional mission and relevant professional nursing standards and guidelines utilizing an effective governance structure (CCNE Baccalaureate Standards for Accreditation, Standard I);
- 2. Obtain and allocate appropriate fiscal, physical, faculty, preceptor, clinical, and academic support resources to achieve the mission, goals, and expected outcomes of the program (CCNE Baccalaureate Standards for Accreditation, Standard II);
- 3. Present a dynamic, engaging, logically structured curriculum that is developed, implemented, evaluated, and revised by faculty on an ongoing basis to reflect student learning outcomes (congruent with program goals) and relevant professional nursing standards and guidelines, aligns with the needs of program-identified community of interest, and builds upon previous courses in the arts, sciences, and humanities (CCNE Baccalaureate Standards for Accreditation, Standard III);
- 4. Conduct ongoing assessments using data analysis to assess program effectiveness through review of completion rates, licensure and certification pass rates, employment rates, program outcomes, faculty outcomes, and formal complaints (CCNE Baccalaureate Standards for Accreditation, Standard IV).
- 5. Recruit, retain, and support qualified and diverse nursing students currently underrepresented in healthcare and committed to academic excellence, professional development, and service. (Gustavus Acts, Goal 1)
- 6. Facilitate interdisciplinary collaboration to address problems through innovative approaches, diverse applications, and global perspectives. (Gustavus Acts, Goal 2)
- 7. Recruit and retain qualified and diverse Nursing faculty in a culture and system conducive to personal and professional growth. (Gustavus Acts, Goal 3)

# AT A GLANCE | CLASS OF 2025 APPLICANTS



#### STUDENT WELLBEING EVENTS



Gustavus Nursing students participated in the fall semester event featuring a soup luncheon and gingerbread house-making contest.



Junior and senior Nursing students and Department faculty at the spring pizza and yard game event.



# **ALUMNI** 1-YEAR GRADUATES (CLASS OF 2022)

# **PRACTICE SETTINGS**

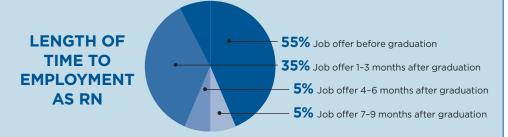
83% Hospital4% Clinic/Primary Care/Ambulatory Care4% Public/Community Health Agency

# LOCATION OF PRACTICE

**50%** Urban/Metropolitan **40%** Suburban

**10%** Rural

**PRIMARY PATIENT POPULATION**56% Adult20% Geriatric16% Pediatrics



# **EXCELLENCE IN NURSING AWARD**

Jill Timm Gustavus Nursing Class of 1995



Jill Timm graduated with a BA in Health Fitness/ Exercise Science (1994) and a BA in Nursing (1995) from Gustavus, followed by a Juris Doctorate (2003) from William Mitchell College of Law.

Jill began her nursing career at St. Mary's Hospital in Cardiac ICU. The past 25 years she has worked for Washington County Department of Public Health & Environment, serving as Public Health Nurse, Senior Project Manager, and currently as the Deputy Director.

Jill's excellence as a nursing leader shined during the pandemic as the Operations Lead for public health response for Washington County. Her service leadership was instrumental in developing and maintaining an emergency response culture that supported public health response staff, utilized quality improvement, and prioritized services to those who

are systematically disadvantaged and disproportionally affected by COVID. Jill never wavered in her commitment to the staff she led or the community she serves.

Jill is a passionate public health professional who works tirelessly to develop nursing leadership. For her dedication to high-quality programs, service to the community, focus on equity, and servant leadership, she is a shining example of excellence in nursing.

Jill is married to Craig and mom to Luke (19), Grace (17), and Lydia (15).

### FAYE M. HERSHEY PRIZE IN NURSING





Sydney Hauger Class of 2023 Trang Nguyen Class of 2023

Established in 1992 by Barbara Knight Kaiser to honor the memory of her grandmother,

Faye M. Hershey, a dedicated volunteer worker in nursing throughout her lifetime, this is an annual award made to a junior in Nursing who shows promise as a prospective nurse and whose activities include volunteer work.

# 2023 ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD



Thomas Sullivan Class of 2023

Each year Nursing presents an award to the student with the highest grade point average.

While all students who are admitted to the Gustavus Nursing program have excellent academic records, achieving this feat is a notable accomplishment.

Congratulations, Thomas!

# **GUSTAVUS STUDENT NURSES ASSOCIATION (GSNA)**

This was the fourth academic year that GSNA was recognized as an official Gustavus student organization. With funding from Student Senate, we were able to give away gas gift cards to all Nursing students to help compensate for the expenses of clinical transportation. This year, GSNA received a generous donation of 100 succulents to sell for fundraising before winter break. The succulent fundraiser allowed us to raise \$500 for our organization. GSNA also partnered with the American Red Cross in hosting four blood drives, collecting a total of 187 pints of life-saving blood. We continued our mentorship program between junior and senior Nursing students, collaborated with Gustavus Health Professions in a stress-relief event, created new Nursing apparel, hosted a Halloween pumpkin-painting event in the fall, and hosted a yard game and pizza event in the spring. We are grateful and fortunate to have had the opportunity to have all in-person learning and events this year, as well as the opportunity to have completed our clinical and capstone experiences. Thank you to our faculty, and CONGRATULATIONS to the Senior Nursing Class of 2023!

Hannah Kennedy & Payton Simon, GSNA Co-Presidents

#### 2022-2023 Senior Board Members

Hannah Kennedy & Payton Simon (Co-Presidents) Emily Norman (Treasurer), Hannah Hubbart (Historian) Hayley Trebil (Secretary) 2022-2023 Junior Board Members Kasie Tweet & Whitney Fink (Co-Presidents) Kelsie Knaggs (Treasurer), Sophia Hillmann (Historian) Trang Nguyen (Secretary)

# NURSING LAB TEACHING ASSISTANTS

Hello! We were fortunate to be selected by our professors to work with this year's junior cohort. The Gustavus Nursing Program is fortunate to have high-fidelity mannequins to practice nursing skills. One of the most common questions we are asked in class is "why?" and that is something we brought into the lab with us. Determining why a patient may be presenting a certain way as well as why you are performing interventions are questions students will take with them beyond Gustavus. We loved getting to know the junior class as we helped them deepen their knowledge and love for nursing. We sincerely hope that we were able to leave an impact on the junior class, much like they did to us.

In Gratitude, The TAs

"Assisting the junior Nursing students as a lab TA has been one of the highlights of my time in the Gustavus Nursing Program. It reminded me greatly of when I first started out as a declared Nursing student. The excitement of taking my first courses and ordering my first stethoscope made my passion for nursing flourish, and I was excited for the chance to share what I have learned with the juniors. It was amazing to see how much each individual's passion for the nursing practice grew while we were taking the time to enhance our critical thinking skills. I cannot express enough my gratitude and appreciation for the Gustavus Nursing Department for selecting me as one of the Nursing TAs and the junior Nursing students for allowing me to be a part of their journey. I am so excited to start my journey as a nurse and to see all the places my fellow students will go". — Alyssa Schwartz

"I have enjoyed working as a TA this year with my fellow TAs, helping the 2024 cohort with labs and answering any questions they may have. I remember how intense the first year of Nursing was, so being able to be a resource for juniors to reach out to regarding anything was rewarding. It has been a joy to watch the juniors become more confident in their nursing skills and grow closer as a class. To my fellow TAs, thank you for all of the memories and I can't wait to see what the future holds for your careers". — Callen Zemek

"Working alongside a handful of my peers to guide the junior Nursing class has been a privilege. As a TA, I was inspired by the junior class to continue to deepen my own knowledge of the nursing profession while assisting them in growing theirs as well. Not only is verbal communication important, but hands-on technique also was a huge focus of open lab time. It has been a blessing to be able to work with all of the students as well as the fellow TAs. I look forward to seeing where my fellow TAs and classmates go in their careers! The class of 2024 has made great strides and I am looking forward to their progress in their final year of Nursing school!" — Grace Zieske



Monica Atkinson



Alyssa Schwartz

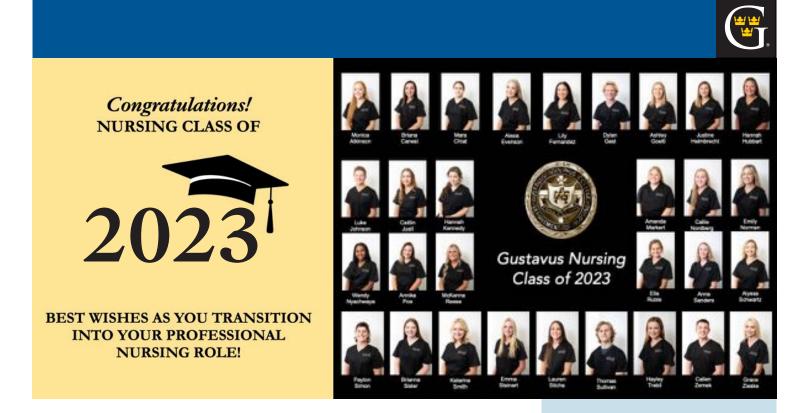


Lily Torres Fernandez



Callen Zemek

Real



# SIGMA INTERNATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY OF NURSING

Twelve members of the Class of 2023 were inducted into Sigma International Honor Society, the Chi At-Large Chapter. The following academic nursing programs make up the Chi At-Large Chapter: Bethel University, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Catherine University, and St. Olaf College. The following students were inducted from the Gustavus Nursing Class of 2023:

Monica Atkinson
Hannah Kennedy
Alvssa Schwartz

Briana Canesi Callie Nordberg Brianna Sisler Alexa Evenson Emily Norman Hayley Trebil Hannah Hubbart Ella Ruble Grace Zieske

Sigma Theta Tau International was founded in 1922 by six nursing students from the University of Indiana. Students who are inducted into Sigma represent the top third of their class in academics, leadership, and service. Sigma has opportunities and responsibilities to make definite contributions to schools of nursing, to the profession of nursing, and to the public.





Sigma induction, November 2022. Front row: Abbie McCabe (faculty counselor), Hannah Hubbart, Monica Atkinson Back row: Callie Nordberg, Emily Norman, Grace Zieske, Alexa Evenson, Barb Zust (faculty counselor).

# SPECIAL CONNECTION BETWEEN 1960 AND 2023 NURSING ALUMNI



On Saturday, May 27, Lois (Swanson) Johnson celebrated the 2023 pinning of her grandson Luke Johnson and her classmate Charlotte (Benjamin) Schoen's granddaughter, Hannah Hubbart. Lois and Charlotte were graduates of the very first cohort of Gustavus Nursing in 1960. Lois represented her class by wearing her Gustavus Nursing cap and cape.

# **STUDENT EXPERIENCES**

**Exploring the Perceptions of Pre-Health Students who Engage in an Interdisciplinary Approach to Learning** Ella Ruble '23 and Hannah Hubbart '23

Poster presentation at the National Conference for Undergraduate Research (NCUR) Faculty Advisor: Heidi Meyer

**Background:** Interprofessional education involves two or more health professions that collectively create and cultivate a collaborative learning environment with the goal of creating skills and attitudes that result in desired team behaviors (Buring et al., 2009). Minimal opportunities exist for interdisciplinary collaboration between pre-health students at liberal arts institutions, particularly nursing and athletic training. This may potentially hinder creativity and skill development essential for successful patient care. Creative pedagogical strategies that develop interprofessional collaboration abilities are needed at institutions where there is limited opportunity for actual interprofessional collaboration.



Ella Ruble '23 and Hannah Hubbart '23 doing their poster presentation at the National Conference for Undergraduate Research (NCUR).

**Method:** This qualitative study utilized Elo and Kängas' (2007) descriptive content analysis approach to complete a secondary analysis of group exam reflections from an unfolding case study. The project analyzed 93 pre-health student responses at one rural, liberal arts college in the Midwest. The reflections consisted of two open-ended questions about working in groups, focusing on the effectiveness of the group, behaviors, and application to future professional roles. This study was exempt from IRB oversight.

**Findings:** Preliminary findings indicate that open respectful communication, open-mindedness, and working with a team with different skills/ perspectives were behaviors that positively impacted collaboration. Students indicated the need to integrate these behaviors when working with other health care professionals to maximize learning that results in comprehensive patient care.

#### **Alaska Immersion Experience**

Monica Atkinson '23, Emily Norman '23, Alexa Evenson '23, Justine Helmbrecht '23

While at the villages of Nuiqsut and Atqasuk, AK. they conducted school screenings consisting of hearing, vision, height, weight, and dental checks. Assisting at the clinic wellness center doing well-child visits, giving vaccines, sitting in on patient education, or getting a public health nurse prepped for going out to a village were other aspects of the experience. Students were able to immerse themselves in the town's culture through tasting whale and other animals unique to their area, going to local church services on the weekend, going to see the northern lights and seeing the animals native to the area, such as an arctic fox. Thank you to the community in Utqiagvik Alaska for welcoming Gustie nurses!

# Military Science & Leadership Commissioning | Ashley Goeltl '23

On May 5, Ashley Goeltl was commissioned as an officer at the 2023 Military Science & Leadership Commissioning Ceremony.

### J-Term in Sweden | Emily Norman '23

In January 2023, I had the opportunity to spend the entire month in Stockholm, Sweden for a career exploration experience at Karolinska Institutet, a Swedish University that conducts the largest medical academic research and offers the biggest array of medical programs in the country. Within Karolinska Institutet, I helped work on a pediatric asthma research project and conducted a literature review on a study being published about the impacts of COVID-19 on new graduate nurses. I also assisted with background research for protocol development and IRB applications, participated in research study visits, and learned a tremendous amount about digital applications for asthma care and treatment. I worked alongside Professor Lynnea Myers and was able to go into Karolinska and meet with other health care professionals, such as the MediTuner team and Mayo Clinic. I also had the opportunity to conduct remote work at various historic places and coffee shops around Stockholm to fully take in all this city has to offer.



Monica Atkinson and Emily Norman in a pediatric room and with the northern lights during the Alaska clinical immersion experience.



Ashley Goeltl (center) at the Commissioning ceremony with Dahlton Dahle '22 and Heidi Meyer (faculty).



Emily Norman at the Stockholm Palace Gate



# **ALUMNI NOTES**

#### Class of 1971

Marjorie (Aasness) Schaffer offered mental health presentations based on her book *Journey Through the Mental Illness Maze: How Families Find Hope and Acceptance* and on her volunteer experiences in mental health. She presented a four-part series, "Let's Talk About Mental Health" and "Journey Through the Mental Illness Maze." In collaboration with Sue Strohschein, she presented five virtual sessions for the Shiprock Unit (Arizona) Indian Health Service. She completed six years on the Hennepin County Adult Mental Health Advisory Council.

#### Class of 1973

**Sondra Maruska Weinzierl** is retired from full-time work and now works part-time teaching RNs who wish to become Faith Community Nurses (FCN) and plan CE programs for current FCNs.

#### Class of 1974

Linda Strand retired after an abundance of experiences over 40 years.

#### Class of 1977

Kathryn Swanson Zard has retired from the nursing profession and is now enjoying life, family, and friends.

#### Class of 1980

**Susan (Bade) Pinske** retired on May 31, 2023 having spent her entire nursing career working at the Critical Access Hospital in Arlington, MN.

#### Class of 1981

Julie Wiggins Nadeau was awarded the title of Professor Emerita, Nursing, at the University of the Incarnate Word (UIW), San Antonio, Texas, in March 2023. Julie joined the nursing faculty at UIW in 2002, she served as UIW BSN Chair (2012-2018), and she served as the UIW Faculty Senate President (2019-2021). Julie has been a member of the Gustavus Nursing Leadership Council since January 2021.

#### Class of 1985

**Terri Bergeron Elsbernd** retired from Mayo Clinic after 33 years of service. In March 2023 she received the Nursing Leadership Award from the Society of Trauma Nurses.

**Ruth Nelson-Lau** retired in May, 2023 after 45-years of practice.

#### Class of 1997

**Sara Balster** recently accepted the position of Director of Nursing Informatics at UW Health in Madison, WI.

#### Class of 2000

Laura (Berg) Menden has worked at St. Mary's Mayo in Rochester, at Methodist in St. Louis Park, as a Preschool Screening RN, and at School District RN. She now works casual hours at Twin Cities Orthopedics in the PACU.

#### Class of 2003

Kendall Baumgartner currently works as a Pediatric Critical Care Nurse Practitioner for Children Respiratory and Critical Care Specialties.

#### Class of 2006

Kate (Sheehan) Menne is a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) with Associated Anesthesiologists PA in the Twin Cities. She is the site leader of the Summit Orthopedics Vadnais Heights Surgery Center.

#### Class of 2010

Angel (Matthes) Yackel continues to serve as Assistant Director for Student Health and Counseling at Carleton College. She presented two sessions (one on eating disorders and one on gender affirming care) at the American College Health Association Annual Meeting in June 2023.

#### Class of 2011

Laura Jensen works as a home health care nurse and preceptor for Accent Care Fairview.

#### Class of 2015

Krista Brockberg has worked for eight years at Methodist Hospital in the Family Birthing Center (FBC). She recently took a position circulating for C-section deliveries.

#### Class of 2016

Rachael Urbaniak currently works at TRIA Orthopedic Urgent Care while completing a DNP/FNP degree with the College of St. Scholastica, and she is projected to graduate in May 2024. She is also currently working at Gustavus Adolphus College as a Co-Head Dance Team Coach.

#### Class of 2020

Hanna Mutschelknaus works as a clinical care leader in the critical care unit at Sanford in Sioux Falls, SD. She recently began the Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) program at Mount Marty University.

#### Class of 2021

Julia Jacobs started her career focusing on reproductive health at Planned Parenthood and recently began a job at Ramsey County as a Public Health Nurse working in maternalchild health.

#### Class of 2022

**Sophie Johnson** works as a full-time nurse in the Neurology department of Fairview Southdale.

Vincent Nguyen is working at Abbott Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis as a critical care RN on the Neuroscience ICU. He is also involved in an employee resource group focused on Diversity Equity and Inclusion in the workplace.



### KELLY REED ADVANCED PRACTICE COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD

Elizabeth (Reed) Eden, Gustavus Nursing Class of 2003

Congratulations Elizabeth Eden, MSN, RN, CPNP-PC, on receiving the Kelly Reed Advanced Practice Community Impact Award. Each year, the Pediatric Nursing Certification Board recognizes a Certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (CPNP) or Pediatric Primary Care Mental Health Specialist (PMHS) who extends the reach of their role beyond regular practice activities. Elizabeth, a CPNP for the Mayo Clinic Arizona's Radiation Oncology Department, received this award for her outstanding work towards improving the lives of children battling cancer. Elizabeth spearheaded the Go Gold Shoe Initiative to raise awareness for pediatric cancer. Her goal is to expand this into a national initiative, hoping to give every child with cancer a pair of gold shoes to fight for a cure by exemplifying a united front. She also created The Book Nook space at Mayo Clinic Arizona, an area within the pediatric waiting room of Radiation Oncology that provides a place for kids to feel safe and experience the magic of books.

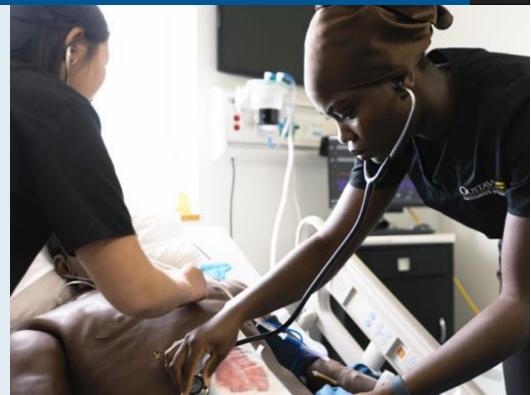


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