

Millikin University School of Nursing



EDITED BY PROFESSOR BRENNIA CLARK

2017-2018: the year in review

IN THIS ISSUE

A Note from the Director

by Dr. Pam Lindsey

Greetings from the School of Nursing faculty and staff! The 2017-18 academic year has come to a close and we reflect back on yet another exciting and busy year. In the fall of 2017, we welcomed three new faculty to the School of Nursing: Dr. Angela Bentley, Dr. Gail Fyke, and Professor Teresa Gulley. In January, we also welcomed Professor Frances Oke. In May, we wished farewell to Dr. Barb Connelley as she transitions into retirement.

In May 2018, at the closing nursing faculty meeting, we celebrated and reflected on a number of accomplishments. These include the following: successfully hosting the CCNE accreditation visit for our BSN program in fall 2017; approval to offer the Family Nurse Practitioner program beginning January 2019, enrollment of our largest MENP class to date, 2017 NLEX pass rates at 87% for traditional undergraduates and 100% for MENP graduates, and 100% certification pass rates for the December 2017 DNP/NAP graduates. We also just received notification from CCNE that the BSN program received reaccreditation for the maximum of 10 years with all standards met and no areas of concern. Kudos to the faculty who worked tirelessly the last two years to achieve this wonderful accomplishment.

As we look to the coming year, we will be assisting new freshman nursing majors to register for fall 2018 classes. In July, we will be welcoming 16 new MENP students and are finalizing our DNP admissions over the summer for our next class of Nurse Anesthesia and Family Nurse Practitioner students who will enter in January 2019.

In August, we will be welcoming Professor LeAnn Rhinehart who will be joining the nursing faculty and look forward to another academic year.

SAVE THE DATE:

Friday October 5, 2018

Westminster Presbyterian Church (1360 W. Main St., Decatur, IL)

Reception begins at 3:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

followed by the Legacy of the Lamp Ceremony at 4:00 pm in the sanctuary.



School of Nursing Events

On several occasions throughout the year, nursing faculty and students join together to celebrate various accomplishments and to promote lifelong learning.

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Performance Learning

We believe that performance learning is the key to becoming a successful nurse. In addition to learning in the classroom, students take that new information into various settings to obtain hands-on practice, including the simulation lab on campus, to area hospitals, and into the community.

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Faculty Happenings

New Faculty

**Angela Bentley**

PhD - Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC
MS - University of Illinois at Chicago, Peoria, Illinois
BS - Sangamon State University, Springfield, Illinois
Diploma - St. John's Hospital School of Nursing, Springfield, Illinois

Dr. Bentley has more than 30 years of cardiac and critical care nursing experience, including heart transplant and flight nursing. She is ACLS certified and an ANCC board certified Cardiac Vascular Nurse. She holds professional memberships in the Society of Vascular Nursing, Midwest Nursing Research Societies, Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association, American College of Cardiology, American Heart Association – Nursing Scientific Council and national and local chapters of the American Association of Critical Care Nurses and Sigma Theta Tau, Nu Pi Chapter.

Dr. Bentley has co-authored a textbook chapter on Technical Aspects of ICU-CCU Care and has been published in the Journal of Vascular Nursing. She is also a peer reviewer for the American Nurses Credentialing Center Cardiac-Vascular review manual and materials.

Her dissertation research focus was on physical activity in the older person with peripheral artery disease. Specialty and research interests include cardiovascular and peripheral vascular disease, heart failure, critical care, and patient education/behavior change.

Dr. Bentley is the recipient of the 2015 Illinois Board of Higher Education Nurse Educator Fellowship and the Arthur L. Davis Scholarship Recipient through the Illinois Nurses Foundation



Gail Fyke joined the School of Nursing faculty in Fall 2017. She is a Decatur native who grew up on the west end of Decatur, a few blocks from Millikin. Dr. Fyke attributes her time working as a candy striper at St. Mary's with inspiring her nursing career choice. Dr. Fyke obtained her BSN from Northern Illinois University in 1987 and went on to complete her MSN degree from University of Illinois at Chicago in 1994. Recently, in 2014, Dr. Fyke completed her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from St. Francis Medical School, College of Nursing. Dr. Fyke worked at Decatur Memorial Hospital for 30 years before joining Millikin University, working on the surgical unit and ICU before taking an Advanced Practice Nurse position as a Clinical Nurse Specialist. She previously held an adjunct faculty position at Millikin helping with clinical rotations in home care and at DMH from 1994-2004. Dr. Fyke currently teaches in the graduate and undergraduate programs.

Dr. Fyke has two sons, Austin who is 15 and Jamie who is 12. They are students in Mt. Zion schools. In her free time, she enjoys adventure, travel, culinary arts, and theater.



Teresa Gulley completed an Associate of Arts in Bible at Lincoln Christian College in 1991, Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Mennonite College of Nursing in 1993, and Master of Science in Nursing System Administration from Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University in 2005.

Her nursing career has been focused on Maternal and Newborn nursing with a love for supporting mothers in the labor process. She started her nursing career as Labor and Delivery RN then charge nurse at BroMenn Regional Medical Center (1993 – 2003). Next, she joined Carle Foundation Hospital as OB Clinical Coordinator and also serving on Perinatal Flight Team and Perinatal Education Team from (2003-2006). In 2006, she joined St Mary's Hospital as Director of Maternal Child at St Mary's Hospital (2006-2016). She was key in several Evidence Based Practice changes including Mother-Baby Nursing; OB staff circulating cesarean deliveries and recovery; and applying Baby Friendly 10 steps to successful breastfeeding. Choosing to refocus on family and work part-time, she stepped down from Director position and started as Labor and Delivery RN at Decatur Memorial Hospital (2016 to current). In the spring of 2017 she joined the Millikin University team as an Adjunct Faculty and started as Nursing Instructor at Millikin University in Fall of 2017.

Teresa is a Captain (O-6) in United States Naval Reserves. Her 29 year Naval career started with "boot camp" in 1989. Since then she has held a variety of positions of progressive leadership. Her most recent positions include Operational Health Support Unit Great Lakes Detachment Officer in Charge, EMF Great Lakes (EMF) Command Training Officer (2011-2013), Maternal Child Specialty Leader for United States Navy Reserves (2012-2015), EMF Great Lakes Detachment Director Region 2 (2013-2014), EMF Great Lakes Senior Nurse Executive (2014-2016), and Officer in Charge Expeditionary Medical Facility Northern Lights at Global Medic (2017).



Dr. Francis Oke was born and raised in a traditional household in Western part of Nigeria. Francis earned a Doctor of Medicine degree from Ladoké Akintola University of Technology (LAUTECH), Ogbomoso, Nigeria. After practicing medicine at Obafemi Awolowo Teaching Hospitals and Olivet Baptist Hospital for a while, he relocated to the United States.

Dr. Oke obtained his Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) at Millikin University and Master of Public Health (MPH) at Chicago State University. Francis in collaboration with other authors, including Dr. Mary Jane Linton, Professor John R. Blakeman, and Dr. Alfreda Beth is in the process of publishing his scholarly graduate project entitled "Healthcare Workers' Knowledge, Attitudes, and Compliance Regarding Personal Protective Equipment, and the Use of Safe Zone." Dr. Oke's project has won national awards, including James P. Keogh Memorial Scholarship of the Occupational Health and Safety section of the American Public Health Association and Cynthia "Cee" Boyd Memorial Educational Training Award of the Young Public Health Professionals.

Due to his passion for teaching, Francis was given a graduate teaching assistantship opportunity at School of Nursing, Millikin University from 2015 to 2017 before joining the same school in 2018 as a full-time faculty member. There is no doubt that Francis loves teaching and explaining the science and pathophysiology behind every disease condition. Dr. Oke is enthusiastic about nursing and believes in the importance of imparting knowledge into his students. He is not relenting his efforts to continue to give the best to his students and the community he serves. Francis can be described with these positive epithets such as simple, unassuming, humble, respectful, and trustworthy to mention few.

Farewell & Thank You, Dr. Barb Connelley!

by Dr. Jo Carter

On almost any day of the week over the past ten years students from the School of Nursing could find Dr. Barbara Connelley on the first floor of Leighty-Tabor Science Center working to either set up a lab or challenge a group on topics related to patient scenarios or medication dosages. Dr. Connelley, PhD, RN announced in April that she is retiring at the end of the 2017-18 academic year. She will be greatly missed by students and colleagues alike.

Barbara was drawn to a career in nursing after having read a series of books when she was young involving a well-known nurse-character known as Sue Barton. A few years later her high school counselor told her that she could not be a nurse “because only boys understand science.” Undaunted, Barb graduated from the Decatur Memorial (DMH) School of Nursing and began her professional career at DMH where she was a nursing staff member for 13 years on an innovative primary care medical unit. Her next venture moved her to three different extended care settings in the roles of the assistant director of nursing and quality improvement coordinator.

Following completion of an MSN in the charter class of the Millikin University graduate program, Barb began her teaching career at Richland Community College where she remained for three years until Millikin persuaded her to join the School of Nursing as an instructor. Barb kept her personal education momentum going when she enrolled in the University of Phoenix to complete a PhD in Nursing.

To new students, Barbara offers this sage advice: “There are so many opportunities in Nursing – see what fits each and every one of you.”

And to new teachers she highlights: “Education keeps changing and it keeps one engaged and flexible AND it is never dull.”

And, finally, Barbara points out that “nursing is special and being at the bedside and having the opportunity to do something meaningful every day is a treasure.” We wish Dr. Connelley the best of everything in her next journey.



Faculty Achievements

- Professor John Blakeman presented a poster entitled "Integrating Feminist Theory into Myocardial Infarction Symptom Research" at the 23rd Annual Nursing Research Conference at Memorial Medical Center in March 2017.
- Professor Brenna Clark, MSN, RN, CMSRN became certified as a medical-surgical registered nurse in June, 2017.
- Professor Francis Oke presented his graduate project at the 23rd Annual Nursing Research Conference at Memorial Medical Center in March, 2017, along with at the American Public Health Association's Annual Meeting and Expo in Atlanta, GA in November, 2017. Dr. Mary Jane Linton and Professor Blakeman were both authors on the poster.
- Professor Blakeman co-authored an article, "An Integrative Review of Fatigue Experienced by Women Before and During Myocardial Infarction," published in the *Journal of Clinical Nursing*.
- Professor Blakeman was named an Elite ATI Champion in May 2018.
- School of Nursing director, Dr. Pam Lindsey, was awarded a sabbatical for Spring 2019.
- Professors Jamie Nickell and Pam Laskowski were selected as Nurse Educator Fellows by the Illinois Board of Higher Education in honor of their commitment to quality an innovative teaching.

Student Accomplishments



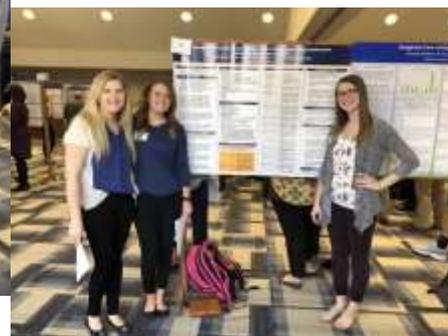
Jessica Ewalt, a Millikin BSN graduate and current nurse anesthesia student in the DNP Program, on receiving the Carolyn Maroney Memorial Scholarship. The recipient for the scholarship was chosen by the faculty based on the following criteria: an intern in good standing, enthusiasm, professionalism, and attitude. Carolyn Maroney became a graduate nurse anesthetist on May 17, 1997 but sadly died a short time later. Faculty and friends of Carolyn sought to establish a memorial scholarship in her memory.

This past April, undergraduate and graduate nursing students presented posters and podium presentations on many important topics at the annual Celebrations of Scholarship day. Nursing students winning awards for the poster symposium were **Katie McGill, Brittney Jeffery, A'Kya Adams, Sierra Birdsell, and Samantha Siltman.**



On the left, MENP student A'kya Adams presents her poster.

Below, undergraduate students Karmina Gant, Bailey Welch, and Emily Holthaus stand with their poster.





School of Nursing Events

Undergraduate Pinning

December, 2017

by Professor Pam Laskowski

On Saturday, December 9th, the School of Nursing sponsored the Undergraduate Pinning Ceremony. The event took place in the new University Commons Ballroom and began with Dr. Lindsey welcoming the thirteen graduating students, their friends and families, the faculty, and distinguished guests. Professor John Blakeman had been chosen by the students to be the speaker and offered the graduates words of wisdom and congratulations. Dr. Sheila Jesek-Hale and Professor Julie Kennedy, whom were also chosen by the students, presented the students with their Millikin School of Nursing pins. The students presented a video of their reflections in the style of Jimmy Fallon's "Thank You Notes," with each student thanking a different Undergraduate faculty member. The ceremony concluded with a video of pictures of the graduates, including each of their baby/childhood pictures, each of their Senior Nursing pictures, and multiple group pictures of their experiences throughout the nursing program. Congratulations December, 2017 graduates!

Legacy of the Lamp

by Dr. Mary Jane Linton

The annual Legacy of the Lamp Ceremony was held during homecoming weekend 2017. Nursing faculty, students, and families were present to help commemorate the occasion as 44 junior nursing students received the lamp as a symbol of the successful completion of the beginning nursing courses, and progression to the upper division nursing courses.

Diedra Stewart (pictured below) was honored as the Millikin University School of Nursing Alumnus of the year at the annual Legacy of the Lamp Ceremony during homecoming weekend 2017. Diedra earned a BSN (1998) and MSN (2009) from Millikin University, and is a clinical nurse leader in the neonatal intensive care unit at St. John's Hospital, Springfield, IL. Diedra shared her career path to professional success, and provided students with recommendations for their own success in nursing. The theme throughout her presentation entitled, "Oh the Places You will Go" asserted that each must student find and follow their passion as a key to professional success and a life of meaning and value.



*Undergraduate Pinning (above, left to right):
Front Row: Jennifer Houser, Erin Bradshaw,
Morgan Ashby, Miranda Ennis, Hayley
Salefski
Back Row: Pam Bergman, Tatiana Kozal,
Rhiannon Carel, Rachel Garrett, Kayleena
Jones, Megan Melchi, Jessica Richardson,
Katelvn Roaers*

Graduate Celebration

by Dr. Sheila Jesek-Hale

On Sunday, December 10, 2017, the School of Nursing sponsored the Graduate Celebration in the University Commons Ballroom. Seventeen graduate students attended the ceremony. Eleven earned their Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) and were from the Nurse Anesthesia Program, four were from the Master's Entry Nursing Program (MENP), and two were from the Master's in Nursing Program. Others attending included faculty from the School of Nursing, friends and family of the graduates. Dr. Pam Lindsey welcomed the graduating students, friends and family. Dr. Mary Jane Linton gave pins to the six students graduating with a MSN students and Dr. Rhonda Gee gave the DNP students a Certificate in Nurse Anesthesia. All graduates received a rabbit's foot which is a long-standing tradition in the anesthesia program. Awards that the graduate students have received were also announced during the ceremony. The Mary D. Shanks & Dr. Linda K. Niedringhaus Excellence in Leadership Award was awarded to Francis Oke. The Robert F. Waldvogel Student Excellence and Clinical Mastery Award recipient was Shruthi Thopiah. The Carolyn Maroney Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Amber Smith. The DMH Nurse Anesthesia Alumni Association Award was awarded to Sarah Reising. The Betty Horton Leadership Award recipient was Sarah Reising. The Ethel Lebkeucher Award for Clinical Excellence was Katelyn Rupert.

Following the formal ceremony, graduates showed a video of their journey through their doctoral study.



*MSN & MENP Graduates (left to right):
Sarah Clark, Amy Bauer, Francis Oke, Mariah Cole, Darrah Hulva, Hannah Donoho*



*Graduate Program Graduates (left to right):
Front Row: Sarah Clark, Kristen Eckhart, Bridget Estes, David Frazier, Clay Gregory, Darrah Hulva, Katelyn Rupert, Carolyn Thopiah
Back Row: Mary Chierek, Sarah Reising, Amy Bauer, Francis Oke, Hannah Donoho, Maria Cole, Sarah Sieg, Amber Smith*

Honors Convocation

by Dr. Mary Jane Linton

Six nursing students were recognized with honors at the annual Honors Convocation on April 26, 2018. The following honors were awarded to nursing students:

Alpha Tau Delta Honorarium Award: **Allison N. Eggenberger**

Decatur Memorial Hospital R.H. Cleland RN Award: **Brian R. David**

James Millikin Theory & Practice of Nursing Award: **Karlie L. Lading**

Dortha F. Dean Nursing Award: **Mollee A. Decesaro**

The Mary D. Shanks & Linda K. Niedringhaus Excellence in Nursing Leadership Award: **Mallory Pierson**, and

The Margaret Burkhardt Johnson Modern Language Excellence Award: **Alexandra Zalar**.

The most coveted award for overall excellence at Millikin University, Scovill Prizes are awarded on the basis of academic achievement, demonstrated leadership and service and scholarship. Through a highly selective process, three students, **Trisha Carr**, **Carmen A. Hatton**, and **Hayley Rogers** from the School of Nursing were honored with the nomination for the university award. A Scovill Prize was awarded to.

We are very proud of each of our award winners and nominees in the School of Nursing. Congratulations!

Undergraduate Pinning & Graduation

May, 2018 by Professor Pam Laskowski

The Millikin University School of Nursing Pinning Ceremony and Graduation took place on May 20, 2018. We had 16 undergraduates receive their nursing pins in Albert Taylor Theater. Dr. Pam Lindsey, Director, welcomed all and spoke about the pinning tradition and background. Professor Pam Laskowski was the faculty speaker and spoke to the students about the Mission, Goals, and Gold Stars. Brian David was the student speaker and gave a heartfelt, encouraging speech to his peers. This special day continued with Graduation at the Decatur Civic Center. Along with our 16 undergraduates who had received their pins that morning, one RN to BSN student also graduated. Congratulations Class of 2018!



*Honors Convocation Award Winners (left to right):
Front Row: Mallory Pierson, Alexandra Zalar, and Mollee Decesaro
Back Row: Allison Eggenberger, Karlie Lading, Brian David,
and Carmen Hatton*



Top Photo (left to right): Evan Berryman, Cristina Capuani, Brian David, & Mollee Decesaro

Bottom Left Photo: Dr. Sheila Jesek-Hale & Elizabeth Johnson

Bottom Right Photo (left to right): Chelsea Fleming, Kaitlyn Foster, & Rebecca Heriqodt

What's Happening on Campus?

The **National Student Nurses' Association** (NSNA) is a nonprofit organization founded in 1952 to mentor nursing students and foster their professional development. On Millikin's campus, students in this organization meet monthly and work to fulfill the NSNA mission of conveying the ethics of the nursing profession, promoting development of nursing skills, advocating for and contributing to advances in nursing education, and promoting high quality, evidence-based, affordable and accessible healthcare. Over the past school year, members of NSNA organized a "Stick A Friend" lab for students to practice their IV insertion skills and in honor of Mental Health Awareness Month, they turned lemons into lemonade at their lemonade stand in the University Commons!



Students visiting NSNA's lemonade stand wrote down one life stressor on a lemon and then squeezed it to turn their lemon into lemonade. NSNA members pictured above (from left to right): Alexandra Zalar, Karlie Lading, Alexis Obermeyer, & Carmen Hatton.



Student Nurse Athletes

by Professor Gina Canny

Who says nursing students cannot be athletes? Well, student athletes in the Millikin School of Nursing are excelling both in athletics and academics. Freshmen to senior students are pursuing two life passions: their favorite sport as well as a future career in nursing. In order to successfully do this, the nursing student athlete approaches their academics with the same intensity and drive as their sport. Throughout the 2017-2018 school year, nursing students participated in the following sports: volleyball, soccer, football, wrestling, basketball, softball, swimming, tennis, as well as track-and-field. Nursing faculty support these students both on and off the field, attending sporting events and helping with accommodations in the classroom if needed. Some of the teams even honor faculty at their sporting event for their continued support of the student-athlete. This year, Professors John Blakeman, Gina Canny, and Jamie Nickell were honored by student athletes on the women's basketball & volleyball teams. Dr. Jo Carter is also the faculty liaison for the tennis team. Congratulations to all teams on their 2017-2018 seasons.

Softball

Left to Right: Jordan Hildebrand, Lexi Dockins, & Alyssa White



Womens' Soccer

Left to Right: Emily Ratchford, Kathryn Stiles & Rebecca Kovacs



Volleyball

Left to Right: Megan Regan, Hannah Paquette, Elizabeth Schager, Skylar Harris, Kelsey McAtee, Meredith Artime, Brianna Niebrugge, Olivia Thompson & Lauren Artime



Women's Basketball

Left to Right: Sierra Birdsell & Jessica Daube



Track & Field

Left to Right: Brianna Niebrugge, Alexis Obermeyer, & Jordan Brandt

Performance Learning out in the Community

During Fall of 2017, several undergraduate students, along with Dr. Sheila Jesek-Hale, participated in the Share Walk in Decatur to raise awareness for pregnancy and infant loss.



Pictured above (left to right): Carmen Hatton, Alexis Obermeyer, Heaven Taylor, Emily Holthaus, Dr. Jesek-Hale, & Allison Eggenberger

Students in our **Master's Entry to Nursing Practice (MENP)** program provided dental health education at the Macon County Health Department and assisting with blood pressure screenings at the Mt. Zion Civic Center!



Left to Right: Heather Wiegand, Alisha Larrison, & Haley Thorp



Left to Right: Ed Kalubi, Mallory Pierson, Jill Friedrich, & A'Kya Adams



A student team from the senior level community health nursing class at Millikin coordinated a Drug Take-Back Event on November 17, 2017. Giving Life: Drug Take-Back Day was developed by seniors (pictured above left to right) *Hayley Salefski, Kayleena Jones, Dr. Jo Carter, Megan Melchi, Tatiana Kozal, and Pam Bergman* (not pictured) in collaboration with the Millikin Department of Safety and Security, Macon County Sheriff's Office and the Decatur Police Department. This population health strategy enabled Decatur community members to drop off 40 pounds of unused prescription and non-prescription medications in order that they be safely disposed. A public awareness program followed the take back event where information was shared about the opioid misuse crisis that is troubling Midwest communities.

Political Action Day 2018

by Professor John Blakeman

On April 17, 2018, Master's Entry to Nursing Practice (MENP) students in Mental Health Nursing and undergraduate students in Mental Health Nursing and Parent-Child Nursing attended the annual Student Nurse Political Action Day. Students heard from several influential speakers and learned about the importance of advocating for patients and the nursing profession at all levels. Students also learned about the ways that nurses contribute an important voice to health policy. The event culminated in a march to the capitol and meetings with legislators. Millikin undergraduate student Hayley Rogers was honored as a banner carrier for the march.



Undergraduate student, Hayley Rogers, pictured on the right.



Left to Right: Morgan Strohl, Alexis Obermeyer, Karlie Lading, Jessica Daube & Shane Cook

Nurses Week 2018

by Dr. Amy Yeates

The School of Nursing celebrated Nurse's Week 2018 at Millikin University with a variety of fun-filled and memorable activities. On Monday, May 7th, nursing students and faculty celebrated Florence Nightingale's birthday with a party featuring popcorn, cupcakes, Rice Krispie treats and much camaraderie. The highlight of the party was a video chronicling a number of student's and professor's journeys to Inspire, Innovate, and Influence patients, peers, and families in the health care environment. Additionally, a number of fabulous prizes were on display, and students were able to register for drawings later in the week.

Wednesday, May 9th showcased a fabulous array of SON t-shirts, sweatshirts, and jackets; worn by students and instructors alike, and an indication of the immense pride shown in our program. Dr. Linton rocked a very classy vintage nursing uniform.

Thanks to all who participated in this special weeklong celebration, and a special thanks to members of the Student Involvement and Achievement Committee, who organized the events.



ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS



Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing (STT) is the second-largest nursing organization in the United States with over 13,000 members. To be inducted into this honor society, an undergraduate student must:

- have completed half of the nursing curriculum,
- achieve academic excellence (having a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale),
- rank in the top 35% of the graduating class, and
- meet the expectation of academic integrity.

The following students were inducted into the honor society on April 7, 2018 at MacMurray College (*pictured above, left to right*):

Back row: Trisha Carr, Samantha Stine, Heaven Taylor, Carmen Hatton (STT Faculty Advisor: Dr. Barb Connelley)

Front row: Bailey Welch, Emily Holthaus, Kathryn Hostetter, Nicole Tharp, Kayla Gingerich, & Hayley Rogers

Not Pictured: A'Kya Adams, Jill Friedrich, Karmina Gant, Brittney Jeffery, Jessica Johnson, Karlie Lading, Mallory Pierson, Abigail Robertson, and Allison Wells.

Keep in touch with us throughout the year online! On Facebook, search "Millikin University School of Nursing" and be sure to "like" our page! Or, you can visit us at www.millikin.edu/nursing