ALPHA OMICRON PI HONORS DR. SUSAN BATTEN

Alpha Omicron Pi is a women's fraternity founded on January 2, 1897. In the past 119 years, they have initiated over 166,000 members and have chartered over 209 collegiate chapters and over 161 alumnae chapters. Their mission statement says, "Alpha Omicron Pi is an international women's fraternity promoting friendship for a lifetime, inspiring academic excellence and lifelong learning, and developing leadership skills through service to the fraternity and community."

Upon the anniversary of the founding of the fraternity, the Toledo Area Alumnae Chapter annually honors someone they believe exhibits leadership through their service to the community. This year, as they celebrate the belief of the Founders it is their responsibility to work towards the betterment of others, they have chosen Dr. Susan Batten to receive this honor because they believe she exemplifies the fine qualities of a community leader. Her work at the University demonstrates her dedication to the nursing profession and to student success. They also recognize and appreciate her role with the Community Care Clinic and her commitment to supporting and helping with those she comes in contact with.

On Saturday, February 4, Dr. Batten accepted this honor at the Founder’s Day luncheon. Congratulations to Dr. Batten. You make the College of Nursing very proud and we are honored to have you on our team. We thank you for all you do! 🎉

SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow us and tell us how you like to stay connected! Get all the latest updates about the College of Nursing and upcoming events.

#utoledonursing #gorockets
Welcome to the spring edition of the Nursing LEADS newsletter. The faculty, staff, and students shine brightly with their many accomplishments individually and collectively. I am pleased to announce our Student Nurses’ Association has been named best in the state and much more exciting news. You will see the progress being made, I encourage you to read this publication front to back to catch the energy and vision for the College of Nursing.

As the College of Nursing moves forward, it is our collective goal to build and strengthen partnerships with alumni, healthcare leaders, and our community. Together we can advance our commitment to innovation, evidenced based clinical education, nursing scholarship, and the delivery of University quality care in our state and beyond. We always welcome and appreciate hearing from you. Please continue to visit our website often to learn more about College of Nursing.

Thank you for your investment,

Kelly Phillips, PhD, RN, CNS, CNL
Interim Dean and Associate Professor
College of Nursing
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:

JOY A. LAUERER
DNP, PMHCNS-BC, RN

Dr. Joy Lauerer began her nursing career as a licensed practical nurse. As a first generation college student she completed her Associate Degree in Nursing from the University of Toledo in 1983. Her earliest clinical experiences as a registered nurse were in pediatrics, psychiatry and the emergency department. Client interaction is what Lauerer valued most in her early career. While working in a community health center, she earned a Bachelor of Arts in communication from UT in 1998. It is there her passion for psychiatric mental health nursing was ignited. In 1995 she earned a MSN from Wayne State University in Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Nursing and become ANCC certified as a Clinical Nurse Specialist.

Moving into higher education, she taught in the BSN program at Lourdes University and The Medical College of Ohio. In 2013, she joined the faculty at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) College of Nursing where she teaches psychiatric mental health nursing in the undergraduate program. She has excelled in the classroom by using innovative strategies to engage her students. Her teaching style uses content expert immersion activities. Lauerer has 80 students in the classroom. Students are assigned a topic based on their clinical group. Each group serves as the "content experts" for the subject matter and designs four interactive stations based on the week's objectives. Lauerer meets with each group and reviews the content synthesis activities. During the first hour of class, Lauerer leads a discussion on the topic and answers questions from the reading assignment. During the second hour, half of the students travel through the stations while the other half prepare for a quiz. The students come together at the end of class to discuss what they have learned, what they like about the experience and complete an online quiz.

Lauerer reports that test scores, course evaluations and ATI scores have improved over the last three years.

Lauerer’s teaching style has received accolades from her students. The Golden Lamp Award, given by undergraduate students at MUSC College of Nursing to an exceptional faculty member, has been awarded to Lauerer three times. In 2016, she received the American Psychiatric Nurses Association Award for Excellence in Education at its annual conference. In the words of one student, Lauerer’s passion for educational engagement and teaching methods “foster critical thinking and creativity, and encourage self-directed learning and problem-solving (APNA, 2016)."
ON DECEMBER 16, 2016 KAREN TORMOEHLN RETIRED FROM THE COLLEGE OF NURSING.

Karen has served the Student Nurses Association as a dedicated faculty advisor since 2004. She was instrumental in helping the chapter achieve four Brain Bowl titles, six Chapter of the Year Awards, the Marilyn Bagwell Leadership Development Grant, and the National Student Nurses’ Association Stellar School Chapter Award. During her service, thirty students were elected to state office. Five students were elected to national office, two of whom received the national Isabel Hampton Leadership Award.

In October, at the Ohio Student Nurses Association convention, Karen was recognized as the Faculty Advisor of the year. In the words of those who nominated her, “If you have ever met her, you are immediately drawn to her enthusiasm for students and for the SNA in general. She encourages us at every meeting to be active in our school, community, and profession. She has a way of making us feel more secure in our ability to lead. Many of us would never have run for local, state and national leadership roles had it not been for her strong belief in our abilities even when we couldn’t see those abilities...Our chapter will miss her presence after she retires, but her spirit will forever live in all of us who she has touched and empowered to lead in the future.” The college expresses its’ sincere appreciation for her passionate service and wishes her well as she moves onto the next phase of her career.
STUDENT NURSES’ ASSOCIATION NAMED BEST IN STATE  

BY CARLY WIEGAND

The Ohio Nursing Students’ Association has honored The University of Toledo for outstanding achievement and leadership as the top chapter in the state. The Student Nurses’ Association is comprised of students from both The University of Toledo and Bowling Green State University. The organization was recognized by the Ohio Nursing Students’ Association, which is the state chapter of the National Student Nurses Association. Outstanding chapter criteria include strong leadership, community outreach and research involvement.

The Students Nurses’ Association is a nonprofit organization for nursing students enrolled in the baccalaureate and clinical nurse leader programs in the UT College of Nursing. “This organization is dedicated to the mission of fostering the professional development of nursing students while indoctrinating the standards, ethics and skills that will be required of them as future leaders of the profession,” Patty Sopko, instructor in the College of Nursing and advisor of the Student Nurses’ Association, said.

The Student Nurses’ Association is involved with community service and has worked with the Ronald McDonald House, the Sunshine Children’s Home, the Daughter Project, and the Alzheimer’s Association, as well as conducted health fairs and food drives. “Because of our extensive involvement in the surrounding community as well as our support of state and national chapter missions, the UT chapter of the Student Nurses’ Association was named chapter of the year,” Sopko said.

In addition, Karen Tormoehlen, UT assistant professor of nursing and an advisor for the UT chapter of the Student Nurses’ Association, was named Faculty Advisor of the Year at the Ohio Student Nurses’ Association Convention. “Karen has dedicated herself to the advancement of nursing students for the past 10 years. Her efforts have resulted in local students being elected to state and national offices,” Sopko said. And the Student Nurses’ Association placed first in the Brain Bowl at the Ohio Student Nurses’ Association Convention in Columbus. The Brain Bowl is an academic competition in which students from various nursing schools throughout Ohio compete against each other to win the trophy to be displayed at their institution for one year.

In October, the UT chapter won the trophy and put a halt to Capital University’s three-year winning streak. In addition, this year the winning team was awarded a free review course from Kaplan Test Prep valued at $500 per student. The Student Nurses’ Association provides a great opportunity for students, according to Sopko. “This organization allows nursing students the chance to enhance their knowledge of the profession, practice leadership skills, mentor younger students, build a network of future colleagues, and give back to the community that they will serve for years to come,” she said.
Vaughn Hoblet, MSN, FNP-BC has been serving as a preceptor for the University of Toledo College of Nursing for the past 2 and a half years. His educational background includes BS, BA Ohio State University 2008; MSN CNL University of Toledo 2011; and post master’s FNP certificate University of Toledo 2013. He is a Lead Provider, Nurse Practitioner at ProMedica Physicians Adult Medicine, and a Nurse Practitioner at Promedica Afterhours and Urgent Care.

Vaughn precepts graduate students in the advance practice FNP and Adult/Gerontology programs. He decided to serve as a preceptor because of the amazing preceptors he had as a FNP student and the opportunity to mentor students while being able to better the profession. Remembering how difficult it was to find placement during his educational process, Vaughn wants to make it easier for some students in their educational endeavors.

Decreasing some of the continuing education requirements for licensure renewal and making connections are two benefits that Vaughn has gained by serving as a preceptor. He states, “Now having my students in the work force I have been able to rely on those connections to get some of my patients seen by a specialist that I did not have access to previously. Also those who are in specialties, calling and getting further advice on how to treat the patient until they can be seen by certain specialist.”

When asked what he would say to other APN’s who are thinking about precepting, Vaughn stated, “It is a great learning opportunity for not only the student but yourself. I enjoy precepting and helping students hone the ability to practice medicine, seeing them grow as they build and apply their knowledge base while interacting with patients. It also ensures that I stay current with my guidelines and best practices, allowing me to deliver the best care for my patients while at the same time instilling best care practices to my students.”

Preceptors are invaluable to the College of Nursing. We appreciate the time and expertise that Vaughn and other preceptors provide. If you are interested in serving as a preceptor for one of our advanced practice programs, please contact Dr. Susan Rice, APRN Program Director at susan.rice@utoledo.edu.
INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION SIMULATION

This past fall semester, students entering into the CNL program for the first time had an opportunity to experience interprofessional education activities in the Therapeutic Communications Skills for Nurses course. The course is primarily focused on developing the therapeutic nurse-client relationship among individuals and families as well as demonstration of culturally sensitive communication skills necessary for the practice of holistic nursing. In addition to lecture, lab activities in the Hillebrand Center and 30 clinical hours in the community, the course offered a brand new experience in the IISC (Interprofessional Immersion Simulation Center).

Assistant Professor Dr. Jaclyn Lanham collaborated with Christina Alvarado, Manager, Clinical and Surgical Operations, and Yixing Chen, Education Research Associate, to create four communication scenarios that students could potentially experience in their careers as nurses: communication with a transgender patient, nurse bullying, foreign speaking patient with no formal interpreter, and a drug-seeking patient with an acute condition. The IISC staff and volunteers from other UTMC departments (including Professor Dr Huey Shys Chen, College of Nursing) provided assistance in preparation for the November 28th event.

The volunteers served as actors, spending time studying the developed scripts for the scenarios, including rehearsal time in preparation for the event. Students were not informed of the topics of the scenarios. The entire class observed each scenario in the de-briefing theatre while three students at random were chosen to participate in the scenarios. At the completion of each scenario students discussed what they observed, including what went well and what could have been improved. Overall, the students enjoyed having the opportunity to experience potential real-life scenarios in their careers as nurses. The class would like to thank IISC for their dedication of time and hard work in making the experience a success.
CCNE Board of Commissioners granted accreditation to the Doctor of Nursing (DNP) program at Wright State University / University of Toledo DNP Program Consortium for 10 years, extending to December 31, 2026.

President Sharon L. Gaber received a flu shot from Meghan Haar, a graduate student in the College of Nursing, as other UT leaders lined up for vaccines from nursing students.

Maurissa Leonard, Pre-Nursing student, bumps a return during a tournament at Savage Arena. She recorded a career high-five service aces.

FIRST BSN-DNP GRADUATES ARE HEALTH CARE INNOVATORS

Now possessing unique qualifications that make them pioneers in today’s dynamic health care landscape, our graduates are poised to achieve many more firsts in their careers upon receiving their diplomas at Commencement on December 17. We are extremely proud of our first BSN-DNP co-hort.

The University of Toledo’s program prepares advanced practice nurses to work as experts and leaders in complex healthcare settings. The curriculum, built on the DNP essentials, provides education in evidence-based practice, quality improvement, and systems leadership, among other key areas.

Wishing to expand their nursing knowledge and professional roles by becoming nurse practitioners, they chose the BSN to DNP program. We thank our graduates for allowing us to prepare them. Equipped with their practice doctorates, they now look forward to providing primary care to patients and communities as nurse practitioners, as well as assuming leadership and policymaking roles in primary care and urgent care settings.

First BSN-DNP graduates are health care innovators.
Florence Nightingale once said, “Were there none who were discontented with what they have, the world would never reach anything better.” This sentiment drives us to do better. It has also led nursing education to evolve over many decades through diploma programs to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing. In 2014, five diploma nursing school graduates, determined to recognize the beginnings of the profession they love so much, decided to come together to write the book, *The Legacy of Toledo Diploma Schools*. The book is a collection of stories and pictures that captures what it was like to be a student nurse in school during those wildly different eras.

**SYNOPSIS**

The impact of diploma nursing education on contemporary nursing in northwest Ohio cannot be underestimated. *The Legacy of Toledo Diploma Schools* will preserve the history of the eight hospital-based diploma nursing schools in Toledo that were open from 1893-1999. These schools were: Flower Hospital School of Nursing, Lucas County Training School for Nurses/Maumee Valley School of Nursing, Mercy Hospital School of Nursing, Riverside Hospital School of Nursing, Robinwood School of Nursing /St. Luke's Hospital School of Nursing, St. Vincent Hospital School of Nursing, The Toledo Hospital School of Nursing, and Toledo State Hospital School of Nursing. The progress of these schools continued with name changes, students enrolled, graduations, and much more. This core group of schools, operating for just over one hundred years, sent registered nurses into our lives taking care of our sick and teaching us how to stay healthy.

Today as new schools to educate our nurses have opened, reunions of diploma school nurses are common. Some classes meet regularly, others mark special anniversaries. Many friends meet informally as time allows.

**PREFACE**

Nothing stays the same. Whether through dramatic change or ordinary events, the world evolves. This evolution pertains to all facets of our families, society, and community. It pertains to science and healthcare; to nursing and nursing education. Between the years of 1893 – 1999, eight hospital based diploma schools of nursing operated in Toledo. Registered nurse graduates from these schools are still among us and continue to provide care and comfort. Just as it seems that everyone knows a nurse, in Toledo it is likely that the nurse graduated from one of these schools: Flower Hospital School of Nursing, Lucas County Training School for Nurses/Maumee Valley School of Nursing, Mercy Hospital School of Nursing, Riverside Hospital School of Nursing, Robinwood Hospital School of Nursing /St. Luke's Hospital School of Nursing, St. Vincent Hospital School of Nursing, The Toledo Hospital School of Nursing, and Toledo State Hospital School of Nursing. The progress of these schools continued with name changes, students enrolled, graduations, and much more. This core group of schools, operating for just over one hundred years, sent registered nurses into our lives taking care of our sick and teaching us how to stay healthy.

Today as new schools to educate our nurses have opened, reunions of diploma school nurses are common. Some classes meet regularly, others mark special anniversaries. Many friends meet informally as time allows.
EXPLORING CLINICAL DECISION MAKING IN A SIMULATED ACTIVE SHOOTER DRILL

Out of 275 reported evacuations from 1971-1999, more than 50% were related to human intruders. In a more recent study, from 2000-2010 there have been 84 active shooter events reported, most of which have been targeted towards businesses such as schools, banks and healthcare settings. While educators are often offered ALICE training, a program developed to authorize and empower teachers to make life-saving decisions, few healthcare professionals have been exposed to this type of training. In addition, most health science curricula do not include discussions regarding the difficult clinical decisions healthcare professionals may have to make if faced with an active shooter event.

To explore clinical decision-making, first year students participating in an evacuation/active shooter simulated drill. Specifically, the students will explore what factors impact a healthcare professional’s decision making during an active shooter event. Over 500 first year University of Toledo students in the following healthcare programs: nursing, medicine, physician assistant, respiratory therapy, pharmacy, psychology, occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech language pathology, clinical psychology, social work, and public health will be asked to participate in the study. This research study is one of several options for these students to complete their professional program’s required interprofessional education activities. Students will be given a power point presentation on the following topics: emergent evacuation and active shooter awareness. Following the presentation, students will participate in an evacuation/active shooter simulated drill. The drill will consist of student groups participating in scenarios that require interprofessional teams of 4-5 students to diagnose and treat a simulated patient. After students have treated the simulated patient for 10 minutes an announcement will be made that a simulated active shooter is in an adjacent building. Students will then need to make a clinical decision as to what action to take (i.e., continue to treat or evacuate the patient). After another 5 minutes, a second announcement will be made stating that the active shooter has been neutralized but there is now a code red (fire) in the building. Students will need to emergently evacuate their simulated patients using the technique taught. Following the drill, participants will have an opportunity to debrief with experts in the field. Lastly, students will be asked to complete a questionnaire related to their team’s clinical decision making processes during the drill.

The results of this simulation will reveal if the decision-making process in an emergent situation like an active-shooter is influenced by ethics, knowledge, leadership, and/or team relationships. This study is guided by ethically driven environmental model of clinical decision-making (IEDEM-CD).
Dr. Lessick earned a PhD in Nursing from The University of Texas at Austin; MSN from the University of Colorado; BSN from Boston University; and RN Diploma from Albany Medical Center School of Nursing. Her specialty area is clinical genetics.

The Dr. Mira Lessick DNP Scholarship Fund supports a Doctor of Nursing Practice student’s evidence-based research project that addresses clinical issues in genetics/genomics.

Dr. Lessick cited several factors in her decision to give to the College of Nursing by establishing a specific DNP Scholarship:

- Remarkable advances in genetics and genomics are being translated into practice across all areas of health care every day, examples of which include screening, diagnosis, treatment, pharmacogenomics, and lifestyle choices. These advances have many implications for nursing practice across the lifespan;
- Moreover, DNP-prepared nurses are well-equipped with the tools necessary to lead and translate evolving genetic- and genomic-based knowledges into clinical practice, and enact policies essential to meeting health care delivery in the 21st century; and
- Providing opportunities for student growth has always been an important value of hers as an educator.

This scholarship offers exciting opportunities for students to examine the diverse clinical issues and challenges brought about by genetic/genomic health care advancements relevant to advancing nursing practice.

Criteria specific to this Scholarship include the following:

- Description of the DNP project proposal and a detailed budget are required.
- Each scholarship recipient may be awarded up to $1,000 to cover expenses pertinent to implementation and evaluation of the scholarly project.
- DNP recipients must agree to carry-out a project dissemination activity before graduation from the DNP program, such as submit a manuscript (based on the project) for publication to a peer-reviewed journal or submit an abstract (based on the project) to a conference for formal paper/poster presentation.
- The Nursing Scholarship Advisory Council may select up to one student a year with approval from the Dean of Nursing.

The College of Nursing gratefully acknowledges the gift from Dr. Lessick and her support of the DNP program.
MAKE A GIFT

Please consider making a charitable gift to The University of Toledo College of Nursing by visiting give2ut.utoledo.edu/nursing.asp

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Join your University of Toledo Alumni Association and help us build an expanding network of more than 150,000 alumni.

Your membership dollars work even harder for everyone! For each membership, a tax-deductible, minimum gift of $10 will be given in your name to the UT Foundation Alumni Association Membership Scholarship Fund. Not only will you receive all the benefits of membership, but you also will support educational opportunities for future Rockets and bolster the University’s national ranking in U.S. News & World Report.

Join now at toledoalumni.org and receive a free gift!

To get involved with other nursing alumni to promote and coordinate activities and establish programs that assist the College of Nursing, please contact Amanda Schwartz in the office of Alumni Relations at Amanda.schwartz@utoledo.edu.