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Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing

2020-2021 Annual Report



MISSION

In the Spirit of Christ and example of Saint Francis of Assisi, the mission of OSF College of Health Sciences is to offer health science education programs in an environment that encourages and supports open inquiry and advances in scholarship, while preparing exceptional and compassionate caregivers and health care professionals to practice in diverse and ever changing health care environments.

VISION

Embracing our Catholic heritage and teachings, the OSF College of Health Sciences will be a leader in health science education and the academic institution of choice.

VALUES

JUSTICE: Respect the personal worth and dignity of every student and person served regardless of race, ethnicity, age, gender or religion.

COMPASSION: Provide a response encompassing the greatest care and love to the physical, emotional, social, and spiritual needs of students and the communities and populations we serve.

INTEGRITY: Uphold Catholic ethical principles, Catholic social teachings, and professional codes and ethical standards in education and practice.

TEAMWORK: Collaborate with each other, with members of the healthcare team, and with those served to deliver comprehensive, integrated and quality health care education.

TRUST: Communicate openly and honestly to foster trusting relationships among ourselves, our students and with those served.

STEWARDSHIP: Manage responsibly the fiscal, physical, technologic, and human resources of the College.

LEADERSHIP: Provide leadership in health care education and in the communities served.

STUDENT AND MISSION PARTNER

WELL-BEING: Demonstrate concern for the physical, spiritual, emotional and economic well-being of students and Mission Partners.

SUPPORTIVE LEARNING

AND WORK ENVIRONMENT: Create and sustain high quality learning and work environments which focus on comprehensive, integrated and innovative opportunities for learning, growth, development and desired outcomes.

TEACHING/MENTORING: Provide a learning-centered educational environment that focuses on excellence and fosters development in mind, body and spirit to prepare learners of the College to grow personally and professionally in their chosen roles and become health care leaders in their communities.

SCHOLARSHIP/RESEARCH: Cultivate a spirit of inquiry that leads to the development and dissemination of new knowledge and a lifelong commitment to learning.

SERVICE/PRACTICE: Apply knowledge, skills, and attributes of the chosen health science discipline in service to others utilizing evidence-based practices.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

It is always a joy to spend a few hours reflecting on the work that has occurred at the college over the 2020-2021 academic year. It is no secret that colleges and universities are facing challenges no one could have predicted as a result of the pandemic. However, it is a joy to report that our college rolled up its collective sleeves and moved forward to ensure we maintain the heritage of excellence.

The watershed moment for the college came in the second week of March in 2020, when it was determined that we needed to cancel in-person classes. During spring break week, we extended spring break a week and emerged from the break to continue the semester via online and alternative modes of delivery. Faculty quickly transitioned to virtual modes of teaching while students transitioned to virtual learning. Staff spent that time figuring out how to work remotely but still fulfill all of the responsibilities of their position. The grace everyone showed during these times was amazing and much appreciated.

That grace continued along with the pandemic into the 2020-21 academic year. We worked hard to keep our commitment to a stellar educational experience and achieved high-quality outcomes. We kept the momentum of the transitions from one semester to the next and used the lessons learned on a weekly basis for quality improvement initiatives. While all of this took the time and energy of every member of the learning community, it also provided lessons on how strongly we work together and how much we can do if only we try. We learned that the “old ways” are valuable, but there is a need to renew and revise practice and procedures. We also learned the importance of developing resilience, self-care, and revitalizing our belief in the college.

This issue of the annual report spotlights some of the wonderful and high-quality work that emerged during the 2020-2021 academic year. The successes of our faculty and students are amazing every year, but more so during this very challenging year. I am incredibly proud of the efforts and outcomes that we have made and very hopeful for our future. I hope that you enjoy reading this report and that it rekindles that flame of pride you have in the college. Stay tuned for the exciting work that is continuing into the 2021-2022 academic year.

Regards,

Sandie Soldwisch, PhD, APRN, ANP-BC
President



MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN OF THE GRADUATE PROGRAM

The Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing graduate program had another successful year. Our total enrollment is 156 graduate students; 22 of whom are earning doctoral degrees, and 127 are MSN and post-graduate certificate students. We have seen growth in the doctor of nursing program as we enroll more BSN-DNP students.

The pandemic continues to bring change for the graduate program. Fortunately, as more people were vaccinated for COVID-19, patients felt increased comfort in re-entering the health care system, and outpatient clinical sites reopened to students. Initially, students were not able to see patients with symptoms of COVID-19 in order to conserve the limited supply of personal protective equipment (PPE). Now, with an adequate supply of PPE, students are able to provide care for patients with COVID-19. Students are “fit tested” with N-95 masks to limit exposure to the virus. Additionally, vaccination is required for students to care for patients in the OSF Ministry. Students and faculty have demonstrated impressive flexibility during this time.

The students in the first cohort of the adult gerontology acute care nurse practitioner (AG-ACNP) option will graduate after the fall semester. An AG-ACNP Nursing Advisory Council was created to get feedback from our partners in the medical center and to continuously improve the program. We are grateful to the excellent preceptors and leaders who support the program. The interest in this program continues to be strong.

Improvements to the family nurse practitioner (FNP) program were based on feedback from students, community partners, and the FNP Task Force lead by Dr. Terri Lipps, FNP Lead Faculty. The curriculum now includes a course on differential diagnosis, an additional theory/practicum course, and 200 more practicum hours.

The graduate program continues to seek ways to enhance learning for our students and to make the MSN and doctoral programs even better. We look forward to a successful academic year.

Sincerely,



Kimberly A. Mitchell, PhD, RN, CNE



MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN OF THE UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

The Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing baccalaureate program has had another eventful year. I continue to note much academic promise in our baccalaureate students despite many challenges. The college provides many learning opportunities such as access to outstanding clinical sites, student volunteer opportunities, education abroad, and student governance opportunities, which allow students to grow and succeed. In addition, the college employs exceptional faculty and outstanding staff members who are devoted to promoting the students' academic and personal growth.

The College NCLEX RN pass rate continues to exceed the accreditation requirement. We continue to implement strategies to prepare students for the NCLEX RN licensure exam post-graduation. An NCLEX RN review course is embedded into the last semester of the baccalaureate curriculum. This ensures that all students participate in a review course and are well prepared to take the licensure exam.

I would be remiss not to spend some time discussing the COVID-19 pandemic and how it has impacted our college and students. The pandemic compelled the undergraduate faculty and students to shift much of our educational offerings to a virtual format for a portion of the academic year. Students and faculty alike, quickly pivoted to virtual education from the classroom, lab and face to face clinical. This change enabled student to continue to progress through the BSN curriculum. Faculty who did not have as much experience with online teaching were mentored by our graduate faculty and experienced undergraduate faculty. New technologies were implemented to enhance the virtual education such as Respondus, Proctor U and Adobe Connect. We are proud of the remarkable efforts displayed by our students, faculty and staff during such a stressful time. Despite the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, our students successfully learned and progressed through the BSN curriculum.

Student numbers are monitored closely each semester. The majority of our graduates (approximately 60%) choose to work at OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center in Peoria, Illinois. OSF Saint Francis is the Level 1 trauma center in the region and includes OSF HealthCare Children's Hospital of Illinois. Our students benefit from a diverse patient population and expert clinical faculty and this continues to be a deciding factor in our students choosing Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing.

We have been blessed this year with the addition of new faculty members. Susan Buck, MSN, RN, and Michelle Thompson, MSN, RN, joined the faculty as full-time employees. These highly qualified faculty will foster learning and growth in our BSN students in the classroom and clinical arenas.

This has been a challenging year filled with growth and opportunities. I am blessed to serve Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing, the faculty and staff, and students.

Respectfully,



Suzanne C. Brown, PhD, DNP, RN
Dean, Undergraduate Program



EMBRACING ONLINE LEARNING

Implementing online education during the COVID-19 pandemic was not easy, but Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing faculty and students stepped up to that challenge with grace, resourcefulness and tenacity.

“Nursing is such a hands-on profession. We had to figure out how to teach it online with the same level and quality of education so they can perform as they need to once they enter into a nursing profession,” said assistant professor Kaitlin Bailey, MSN, RN.

“There were some bumps in the road, but we have awesome administration and students at the college who gave us great feedback. We all came together, and it didn’t take long before we were able to make it the best we could for our students,” she added.

Faculty had to pivot quickly to online learning when the pandemic forced a government shutdown of Illinois schools in March 2020. Teaching skill building in a virtual way was particularly vexing, but faculty responded with a high degree of creativity.

In a clinical setting, students learn how to be critical thinkers and make clinical judgments by treating actual patients under the guidance of instructors and nurses. “How could we do that remotely? That was the challenge,” said associate professor Joe Degitz, PhD, RN, CCRN.

After brainstorming the type of patients that students would most learn from, faculty created charts for simulated patients with progress notes, histories and labs that the students received online.

“Then we called each individual student one by one and engaged them in the same manner we do in clinical with a real patient,” Degitz said. “That was key. So they had the opportunity to be immersed like they are in a real clinical setting and make clinical judgment calls.”



One unexpected benefit of the remote learning was that students sometimes experienced an unforgettable lesson if their decisions resulted in a bad outcome for the patient, he added.

“In real life, we would never let them do anything wrong because there’s a real patient involved,” Degitz said. “With a virtual patient, we let the student go down that trail, and if there was a bad outcome, they’d learn from it and never make that mistake again.”

Faculty used various modules to check that students were learning the hands-on skills needed to provide good patient care, such as giving medications or inserting a catheter. “Even though they weren’t putting their hands on a patient, they still had to click through the virtual patient simulations to show us they knew the correct steps of the procedure and how to prioritize care of the patient,” Bailey said.

“I think it helps that we are such a technology-based society now, so the students were able to jump right in and use the technology quicker. They did a phenomenal job,” she added.

Instructor Jenna Yates, MSN, RN, used a webinar resource called NurseTim that helped her entry-level nursing students work on skills, such as doing a med pass or keeping a patient from falling. For some of the hands-on skills that are harder to learn virtually, students were given supplies to practice with at home.

“When we were teaching different types of injections, they took home the needles and syringes to practice injections on a piece of fruit or something at home,” she said. “Then they created videos of themselves demonstrating that procedure to show us their skills. That’s something we’re going to continue because it was so beneficial to them.”

To keep students engaged in theory classes, faculty hosted virtual online meetings after students completed assignments to discuss what they had learned and to walk through new skills, Yates said. “It was nice because the students could be online with other students to still have that sense of community, even though they weren’t seeing each other in person.”

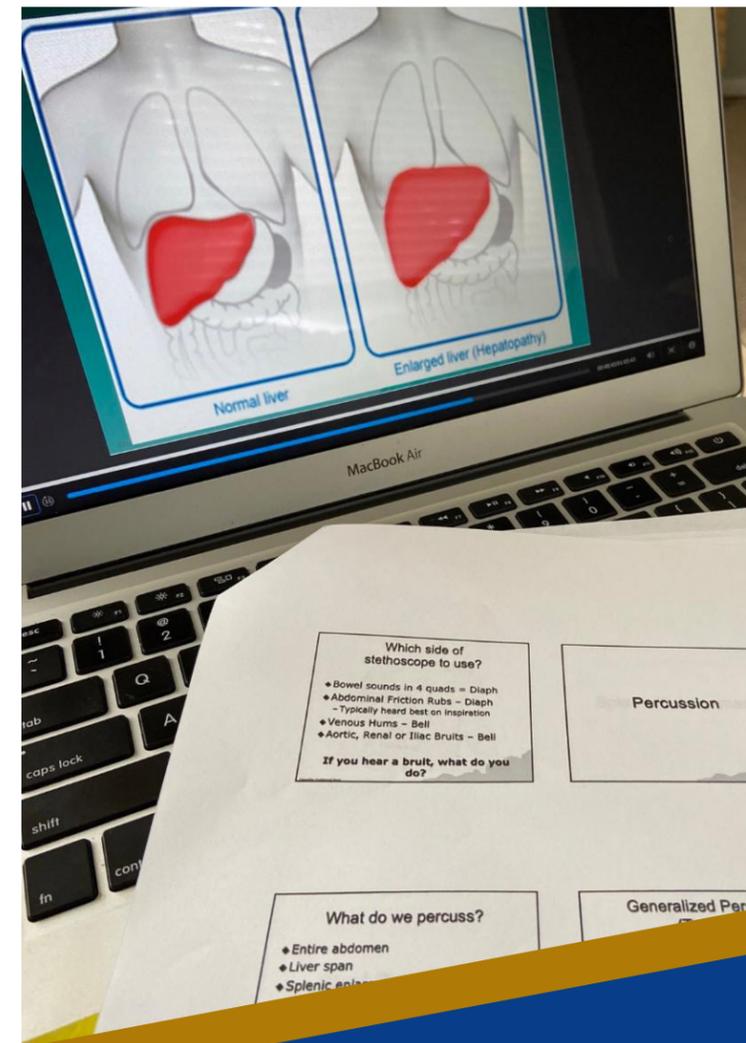
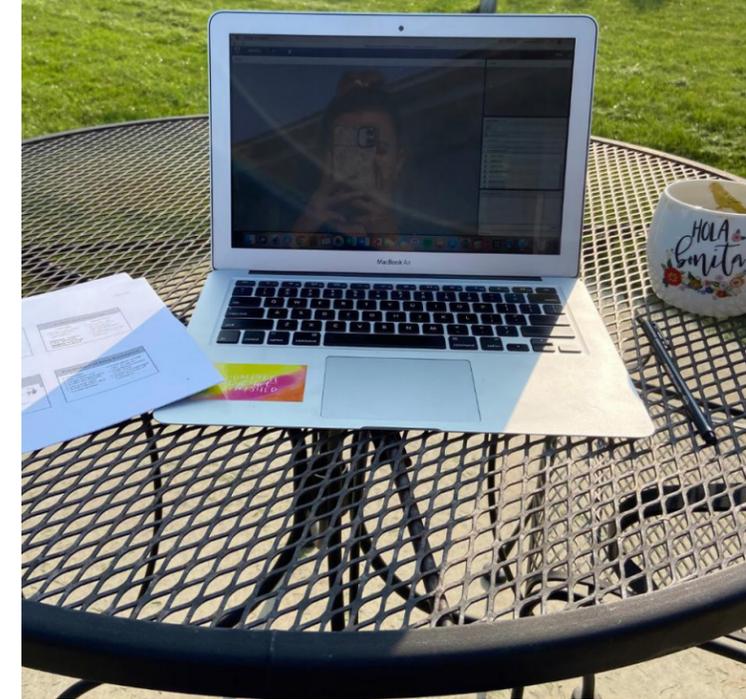
Instructor Dana McVicker, MSN, RN, also provided her pathophysiology students with patient case studies but sometimes had them reverse the problem and create their own background for the patient, including symptoms and lab values. “It allowed them to be creative and helped enhance critical thinking,” she said. “We used it to keep them engaged since we were not in class face-to-face.”

Other applications McVicker used to engage students and measure learning included having them watch a video embedded with questions and sending out questions during a synchronous online course that students answered from their phones. “I would get their responses and could send out feedback so they would immediately know whether they got it right, wrong or needed to look at the question again,” she said.

Angela Sandoval, who will graduate in December, said while she learned critical thinking skills, she lacked full confidence in her hands-on skills until she was able to do in-person clinicals. “I think I learned a lot, but you don’t get that confidence of what you learned virtually because you weren’t applying it,” she said. “But once we got on the floor again, you realized that you had learned and you were able to use it. Working with patients ties everything together so much more clearly than just conceptual knowledge.”

Classmate Bronwyn Knight, who expects to graduate in May, said she felt some anxiety going back to in-person clinicals after virtual learning, but she also believes she learned what she needed to know. “It wasn’t in the way I thought I was going to learn it, but I feel like the instructors have really gone above and beyond to make sure we are continuing to feel confident and develop those skills, even when we didn’t get to practice them a lot initially,” she said.

A silver lining to learning during a pandemic was the resiliency it created for faculty and students. “It opens your eyes to recognizing that you need to have alternate means readily available and be willing to be flexible,” McVicker said. “I think these students through this experience are probably more flexible and able to adapt to changing circumstances, which will serve them well in their careers as nurses.”



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Brad Bock



From his earliest days as a teenager delivering trays at OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center, Brad Bock knew he wanted to be a nurse and continue to learn and provide more patient care.

“I think nursing is such a unique profession with endless opportunities, and that’s how I always saw it,” said Bock, BSN, who is currently working on his family nurse practitioner degree at Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing.

Brad worked with transport and lift team services and then as a patient care technician on the neurology floor during his undergraduate nursing school years until receiving his BSN from the college in 2013.

“I started with patient experience when I was 16, and in each role I’ve always had professional goals to do more and provide more care,” Brad said. “Now I want to take care of patients at a different level, so that’s ultimately why I decided to go back and become a nurse practitioner.”

A Peoria native and the first person in his family to graduate college, Brad sees health care as a rewarding profession in which you’re always learning something new with the opportunity to impact someone’s life. “To me, that’s priceless,” he said.

Brad started his professional nursing career in the OSF Saint Francis emergency department in 2014. Two years later, he left to do travel nursing but returned in 2018 to work in outpatient cardiology at OSF HealthCare Cardiovascular Institute.

“Even though I left OSF, I found my way back. I just felt that as a nurse, I needed to expand my professional growth through travel nursing,” Brad said.

He recently transitioned to a new job with OSF OnCall, which allows him more flexibility to be able to complete classes and clinicals in his final semester of his advanced practice degree.

“What I love most about nursing is you’re always learning something new every day,” Brad said. “Every day is completely different. I couldn’t really imagine doing anything else.”

Just as he has received encouragement from others throughout his career, Brad said, “I try to be that motivator for others so they can also continue to expand on their professional growth and encourage them that the opportunities are endless and you can do it.”

After finishing his advanced degree, Brad plans to work in primary care, but he’s also open to working in cardiology or urgent care. As someone who has received several scholarships during his education, he also hopes one day to be able to help fund a scholarship to help future nursing students.

Brad advises new students and nurses to find a work-school-life balance. “Know what makes you happy, because mental health is important,” he said.

Brad said he’s proud to be affiliated with OSF Saint Francis and the college because “there are so many opportunities with OSF. One of their philosophies and values is professional growth, and I like that they push you to make that one of your goals, as well, and they support that.”

SISTER M. LUDGERA AWARDS

Fall Recipient: Carol Swank, MSN, RN



Carol Swank, MSN, RN, was surprised, humbled and appreciative to win the fall Sister M. Ludgera Award.

Her award nominator praised Carol for her willingness to go “above and beyond” in all instances, a trait she learned from her late father, Larry.

“I can tell you 100 percent for sure that it is something that I got from my father, who was very much a perfectionist. He was always pushing my brother and me to do more to help others,” she said.

A Princeville native, Carol worked full time as the college’s health nurse and PRN as a paramedic while earning her MSN. After graduating last December, she became an instructor with the college.

“It was always kind of a dream ever since I got into nursing to be able to not only teach but to stay here and teach at the college, because I’ve been with Saint Francis for 18 years and have no desire to go anywhere else,” she said.

Carol also is a founding member of the Region 2 Medical Emergency Response Team for disaster preparedness and is still active with that group.

As a lifelong learner, Carol strives to inspire that love of learning in her students.

“I want to help make nurses that are competent, compassionate and can provide excellent patient care, doing it in a safe manner and carrying out the Sisters’ Mission at the same time,” she said. “We’re very blessed here at Saint Francis, I think, with having this amazing college and a lot of amazing faculty, and I am just very thankful to be a part of it.”



SISTER M. LUDGERA

The award is named in honor of Sister Mary Ludgera, RN, PhD, who led the transformation of the School of Nursing to the College of Nursing. Born in Germany in 1927, she came to the United States and earned her diploma from the Saint Francis Hospital School of Nursing in 1956. Over the next 20 years, she worked in a number of nursing roles at different hospitals and also got involved in nursing education.

In 1976, she was named director of the School of Nursing. From 1983–86, Sister Ludgera and her faculty initiated the transition from a general nursing program to one that offered a BSN. The first class of baccalaureate students graduated in 1988. Graduate programs would follow, and the College grew in stature. Sister Ludgera led the College for 27 years, before her death during a trip to Germany in 2004.

The Sister M. Ludgera Award is presented to a graduate of the College’s master’s program who has demonstrated outstanding nursing practice, caring patient interactions, problem-solving abilities or outstanding teaching abilities.

Spring Recipient: Amy Jo Williamson, MSN, RN



For Amy Jo Williamson, MSN, RN, receiving the spring Sister M. Ludgera Award provided encouragement and recognition at just the right time.

“I felt surprised, grateful and encouraged that I am making a difference among my peers and those at the college,” said Amy, a

Delavan native who has been the patient care manager of the Maternal-Fetal Diagnostics and Women’s Care Unit at OSF HealthCare for a little over two years.

Working in a leadership role while pursuing an advanced degree during a pandemic was definitely challenging, but Amy was able to maintain a positive attitude and serve as a role model and mentor to other students, according to her award nomination.

“I think it’s important to always be relatable, approachable and open,” she said.

Amy worked as a residential counselor at the Children’s Home Association of Illinois for seven years before going back to school for her BSN and pursuing a career on what was formerly known as the Antepartum Unit at OSF Saint Francis.

She earned her MSN last spring and is pursuing her DNP at the college.

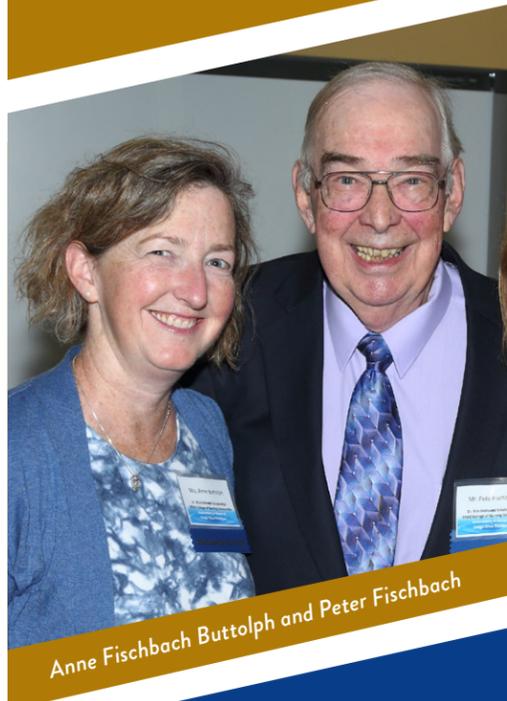
“Health care continues to grow and evolve, so continuing to learn makes me feel like I have more to bring to OSF,” she said.

Amy credits her sister, Jill, director of clinical education at OSF HealthCare, with inspiring her to move forward with her education and profession. She also has aunts and a cousin who are nurses.

“Nurses really do have a calling to care for others. I really believe you have that within you to know you’ve been called upon to take care of and help others,” Amy said.

SCHOLARSHIPS

For 2020-21, the College of Nursing awarded \$31,211 in scholarships to 11 graduate students and \$172,763 in scholarships to 77 undergraduate students.



Peter Fischbach, donor of two scholarships at Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing, including the college's only full-time tuition waiver, has been continuously impressed with the impact his scholarships have made on students.

Peter and his late wife, Rita, established an endowed scholarship in 2013 in honor of their daughter, Ensign Anne Fischbach Buttolph. A 1992 graduate of the college, Anne served as a U.S. Navy nurse for six years and was a member of the medical unit designated to provide care to the U.S. president and vice president while stationed at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland.

After his wife's death in 2015, Peter established the Dr. Rita Endowed Scholarship, which is open to full-time enrolled BSN students who complete pre-nursing courses at Illinois Central College. Rita was a long-time faculty member and administrator at ICC who received her doctorate in vocational education from the University of Illinois. She served on the college board from 1995 to 2004 and was board president in her final term.

In 2017, Peter made the largest gift in the history of the college by a living person to bolster the existing funds of the Dr. Rita Endowed Scholarship.

"I give because I know it's going to those who will benefit from it the most," Peter said. "This is what Rita would have wanted - to know our money is helping future nurses achieve their goals, which otherwise might not have been possible. All credit goes to Rita."

This year's recipient of the Dr. Rita Endowed Scholarship, Brianna Yordy, said the award was "a blessing and an answer to prayers." The Roanoke, Illinois, native who will graduate with her Bachelor of Science in Nursing in May, added, "It would have been much more difficult to go to nursing school without the scholarship. I would have had to take out more loans, which would have put me more in debt."

Brianna and her two younger sisters served as missionaries with their parents in Haiti for five years, beginning when she was in eighth grade. "As part of my experiences in Haiti, I was able to translate for medical teams that would come there, and that's when I really knew I wanted to be a nurse and have that hands-on experience and be able to directly affect patients in that way," she said.

Brianna has many nurses in her family to inspire her, including her mom, grandmother and aunt. She has interest in flight nursing and may go back to school to become a nurse practitioner in the future.

Mariah Millman, a junior at the college, is this year's recipient of the Ensign Anne Fischbach scholarship.

"When I received the award, I was really grateful because it was one less thing to worry about, especially going to school and working during COVID," said the Brimfield native.

Mariah became interested in nursing after observing how nurses cared for hospitalized family members. "Seeing how nurses are at the bedside helping patients and their families made me realize I want to impact people's lives like that," she said.

Mariah is interested in becoming a surgical nurse and also may go back to school later to become a family nurse practitioner. Receiving the scholarship has also inspired her in another way. "I thought it was special that a parent would honor their daughter by creating a scholarship, so it's made me think that maybe I can do something like that when I'm older," she said.

Peter Fischbach said he is extremely proud and thankful that Rita's legacy, as well as Anne's, will live on forever through his giving.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Terri Lipps, DNP, CNE, APRN, FNP-BC



Dr. Terri Lipps, DNP, CNE, APRN, FNP-BC, has always had a passion for helping others, whether it's treating patients or teaching students how to become top-notch nurse practitioners.

"People are always going to need health care. It's a way to give back and help others," said

Dr. Lipps, who's led the Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing's family nurse practitioner program for the past decade.

Dr. Lipps began her career as a nurse at a VA hospital in Texas after earning her BSN from Old Dominion University. She then went on to earn her FNP in 1997 from the University of Texas at Arlington and worked for several years at an internal medicine group in her hometown of Pratt, Kansas.

After moving to Illinois in 2003, Dr. Lipps worked as an FNP at clinics in Pekin, Springfield and Peoria, when she learned about an opportunity to help develop and lead the college's FNP program in 2011.

"I thought I would like it because I've always loved teaching students," she said.

Ten years later, Dr. Lipps still enjoys helping students on their journey to becoming providers. "They're so eager to get into the FNP course and they're just soaking up everything you say," she said. "I tell them you're never done learning."

Dr. Lipps has gone on to earn her post-master's in nursing education from the college and her DNP from Chamberlain University. While the college's FNP program has always been online, the COVID-19 pandemic that hit in March 2020 created many challenges in finding ways for students to complete their clinical hours.

Several years prior to the pandemic, Dr. Lipps had developed an immersion week where all students would come in the first week of classes for hands-on skill assessments, guest speakers and experiential lessons in topics such as suturing and joint injections.

She also developed a collaboration with Jump Trading Simulation & Education Center at OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center for students to do a hands-on examination and diagnostics with a standardized patient as part of their mid-term exam.

"Students love that but COVID knocked it out, so January 2020 was the last time we were able to do that," Dr. Lipps said.

Through innovation and perseverance, Dr. Lipps and other faculty were able to create online simulation opportunities and get students placed for some clinicals last fall so everyone was able to finish their required hours.

"It's been a struggle, but the students have adapted very well," she said.

While she was still unable to hold the immersion week this spring, Dr. Lipps was able to have small groups of students come in for skill assessments and some hands-on learning. "The students were very thankful, and it was great at that point to just be able to see people again," she said.

Dr. Lipps often hears from students after they've graduated and begun working as nurse practitioners.

"It's great to have those relationships and to know I'm producing nurse practitioners who are going to be taking care of people in the future," she said.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Abby Lotz, MSN, MBA



Abby Lotz, MSN, MBA, was considering a career in pharmacy when serendipity led her to shadow an ICU nurse as an undergraduate.

“I knew from that moment I wanted to be a nurse,” said Abby, who received both her Bachelor of Science in Nursing and her Master of Nursing from Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing.

Abby started her nursing career in 2003 with the OSF HealthCare Illinois Neurological Institute. “It was intense and very busy, and I really liked that pace,” said the Green Valley native.

As she advanced in various nursing roles, Abby found she had a love for leadership. In 2016 she was named clinical systems of care director at OSF INI and was intrigued when the department began to explore telehealth options.

“I loved figuring out how to solve problems for access and connecting patients to specialty care and creating care delivery models for those people in our rural communities, as well,” she said.

Abby was named vice president and chief nursing officer of OSF OnCall in 2019. Under her leadership, digital care services within OSF OnCall grew and improved tremendously.

“Very early in pandemic response, we knew we needed to offload the amount of work that was going to be on our Mission Partners,” Abby said. “We felt a digital-first strategy was the way to go. People were pining for information about COVID-19 and wanting to be in touch with resources, and we knew that most people have access to a digital device, most likely their phone.”

OSF OnCall launched Clare, a virtual assistant chatbot, just prior to the start of the pandemic. Clare was quickly equipped to screen for and educate the public about COVID-19. “The public really embraced that,” Abby said.

She also helped execute and lead a Health and Family Services contract to deploy the Pandemic Health Worker program to support COVID-19 response efforts, resulting in more than 10,000 individuals served and the hiring of more than 40 permanent full-time employees to support post-pandemic efforts for OSF HealthCare.

In addition, Abby led efforts to secure and operationalize a grant through the Illinois Department of Public Health to support resource referrals for community members with COVID-19, a program that has delivered more than 800 care kits and fulfilled more than 2,000 requests for resources to allow patients to safely isolate at home.

Abby has built a team and organizational structure to position digital care for growth and expansion in the future. “The challenge will be to give patients the best of both worlds with a hybrid of health care,” she said. “I think telehealth is going to become more prominent, and I think we’re going to see it becoming an expectation from those we serve that it’s available to them if that’s what they want.”

Abby is proud to be an alumna of the college and offers this advice to new students: “Really explore the opportunities and understand what’s out there, so you can gain the experience and land in a place that’s going to support what you’re passionate about.”

CAMPING GOES VIRTUAL

Virtual Camp GrenADA

In summer 2021, nursing students had the opportunity to participate in a virtual camp program through the American Diabetes Association (ADA), Imagine Camp. In previous summers, students would attend Camp GranADA, a camp for Type 1 diabetic children, which is a weeklong experience held at the University of Illinois 4-H camp in Monticello, Illinois. The children that attend the camp range from 8 to 16 years of age.

When the pandemic kept kids who have Type 1 diabetes from being able to experience American Diabetes Association’s Camp GrenADA over the summer, Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing students helped the organization take the event virtual.

Typically, children ages 8-16 attend the weeklong overnight camp. Despite the limitations caused by the pandemic, the ADA recognized the need to keep the campers connected.

Faculty member Megan Frye, MSN, RN, collaborated with ADA staff to provide the students with the experience online, calling it Imagine Camp. Prior to the camp, the nursing students participated in a two-day orientation to learn more about their role, Type 1 diabetes, and diversity and inclusion, as the campers were located across the country.

The students facilitated virtual Imagine Camp sessions with their designated “cabins” for two weeks. The online platform allowed students and campers to visually see each other and interact. The students and campers used Google Classroom, along with an activity box that provided the activities and resources. Student nurses had a handbook for guidance.

In the more relaxed format, students provided education to the campers related to recognizing the signs of high or low blood sugar, good food choices and exercise. Campers provided support to newly diagnosed peers with tips on how to manage new pumps, remain active in sports, and navigate school and home life.

Students not only provided education to the campers but obtained a vast amount of knowledge from the campers, something that cannot be learned in a textbook. At different times during the week, members of ADA staff and health care professionals participated in the virtual sessions.

Despite being virtual, students developed great relationships with the campers and cabin teams. All student nurses gave positive feedback on the benefit of participating in the experience.

Virtual Camp HOPE

Children with cancer or blood disorders are invited each year to Camp HOPE, a five-day overnight camp. Presented by the DAX Foundation, it aims to create an environment rich in fun, education, positive coping, and life skills to cultivate relationships with others enduring the chronic illness journey.

In the summer of 2021, Camp HOPE went virtual because of the pandemic. Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing students had the opportunity to help at the virtual camp.

Faculty members Alissa Watkins, MSN, RN, and Jordan Herring MSN, RN, collaborated with various other oncology/hematology medical staff to participate in the virtual camp experience.

The virtual camp was available through scheduled meeting sessions via a video conferencing service that connected the nursing students with the campers. The campers ranged from 4-16 years old with a current or previous diagnosis of cancer or blood disorder. Their siblings were invited as well.

Throughout the week, the nursing students collaborated with other members of the camp team to provide a fun and safe experience for the campers. The students were assigned a “cabin” and a group of children.

While at virtual Camp HOPE, the student provided an intentional experience for each camper. The students provided an education session on cancer and blood disorders while creating a fun learning experience. The students facilitated the daily camp activities of crafting, baking, challenges, and various other projects to engage the camper in the virtual experience.

The nursing students were exposed to many great learning experiences while attending virtual Camp HOPE and developed positive relationships with the campers and cabin teams. The students felt that Camp HOPE was a life-changing experience that provided a new outlook on life.

MENDED HEARTS

Mended Hearts Therapeutic Center in Metamora hosted Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing students and staff last spring to introduce them to equine therapy for mental health patients.

The group learned about when the program started, the owner's educational background, types of patients who benefit from the therapy, and why horses are excellent to assist patients with mental health disorders.

The students were able to meet a patient who agreed to talk to the students about their experience with equine therapy and how it had helped them. They also got to meet a horse. Students were encouraged to ask the patient questions using the communication techniques they were learning in class to gain more experience.

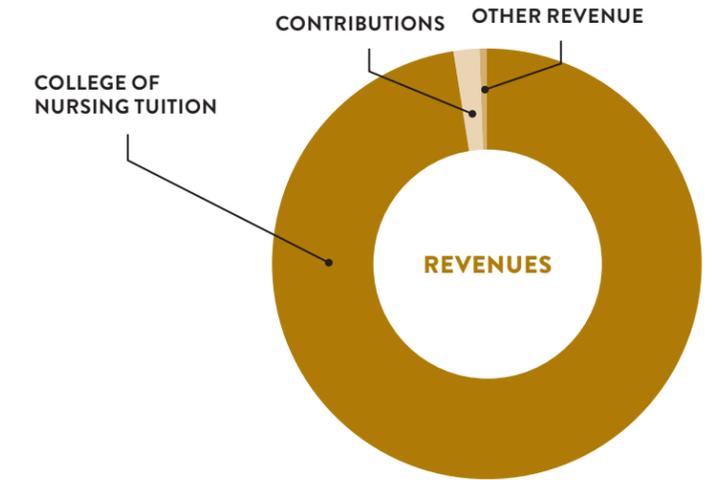
The students also were introduced to the other therapy animals including dogs, cats, chickens, goats and more horses.

Every student who attended loved the facility and was amazed to learn of this valuable resource in our community.



FINANCIALS

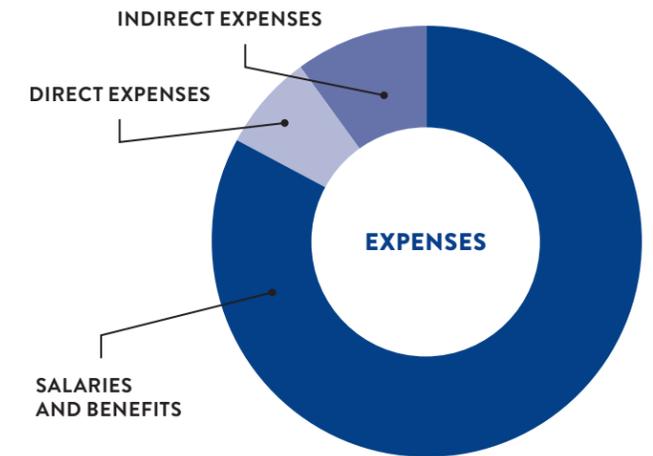
REVENUES	
Total revenue <i>(including federal support)</i>	\$7,420,538.00
EXPENSES	
Salaries and benefits	\$6,171,342.00
Direct expenses <i>(e.g. maintenance, marketing, equipment)</i>	\$502,010.00
Indirect expenses <i>(e.g., rent and utilities)</i>	\$747,186.00
Total net income	\$0



RESEARCH ACCOMPLISHMENTS

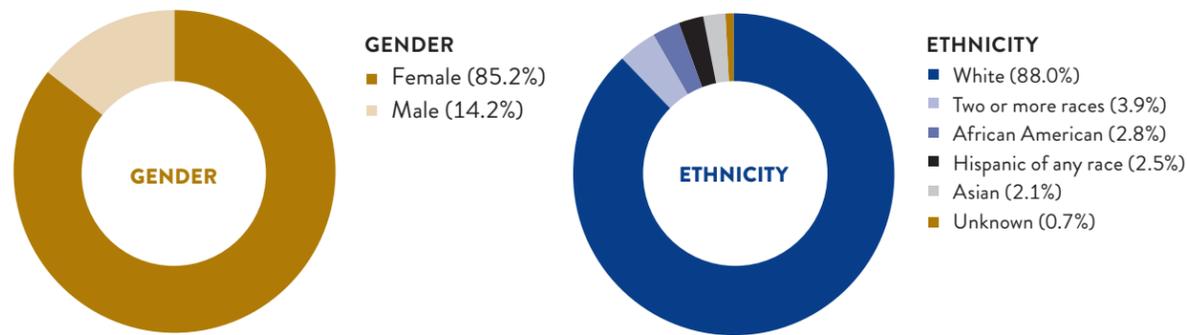
Laura Bowers and six colleagues published “Cumulative Impact of Multiple Evidence Based Strategies on Postnatal Growth of Extremely-Low-Birth-Weight Infants” in *Clinical Nutrition*.

Erin Havron with co-authors J. Periono and K. Cavanah, published an article in *Neonatal Network* titled “Neonatal Nurses Book Club: A Novel Approach to Promote Nursing Resilience.”

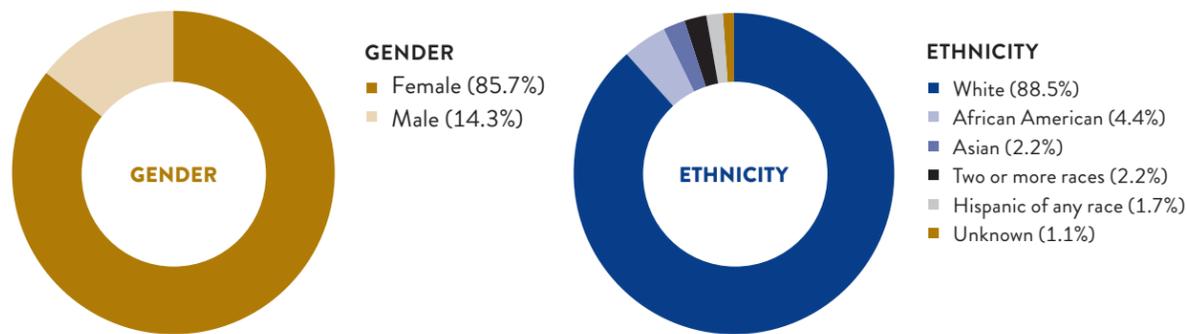


ENROLLMENT DATA

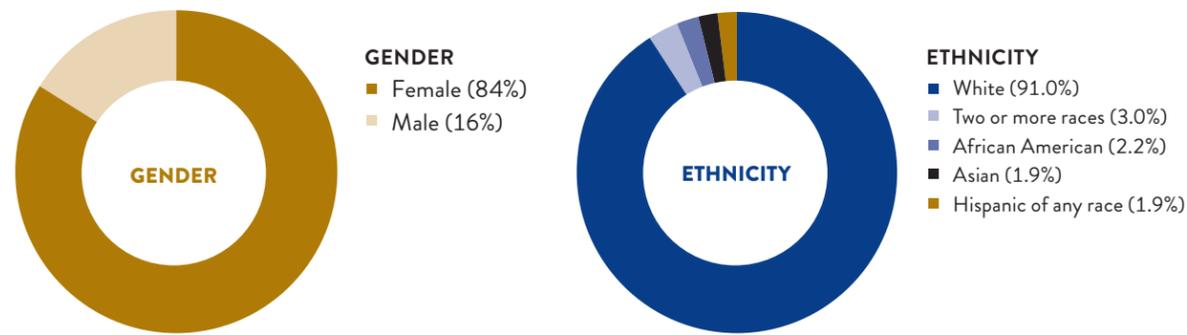
Undergraduate Program Enrollment Data – FALL 2020



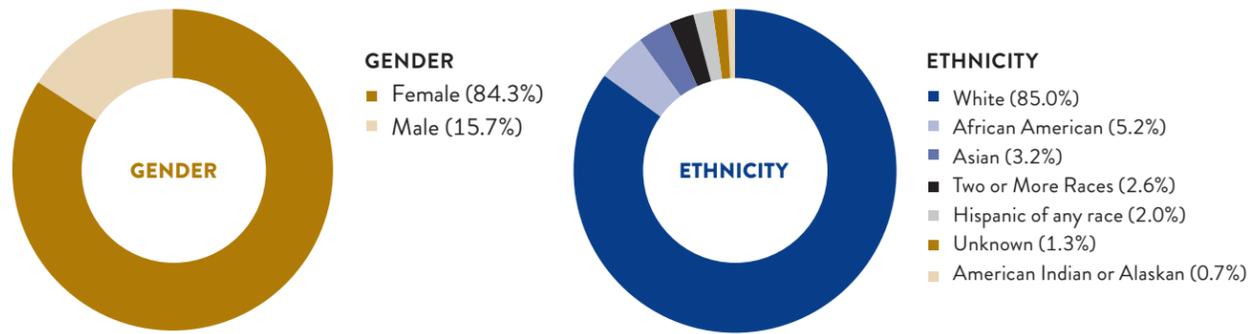
Graduate Program Enrollment Data – FALL 2020



Undergraduate Program Enrollment Data – SPRING 2021

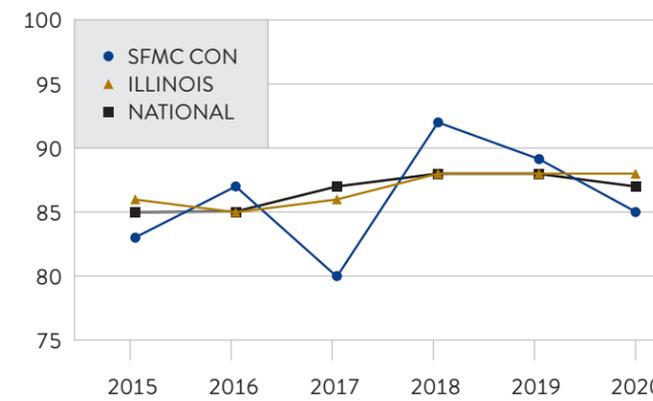


Graduate Program Enrollment Data – SPRING 2021

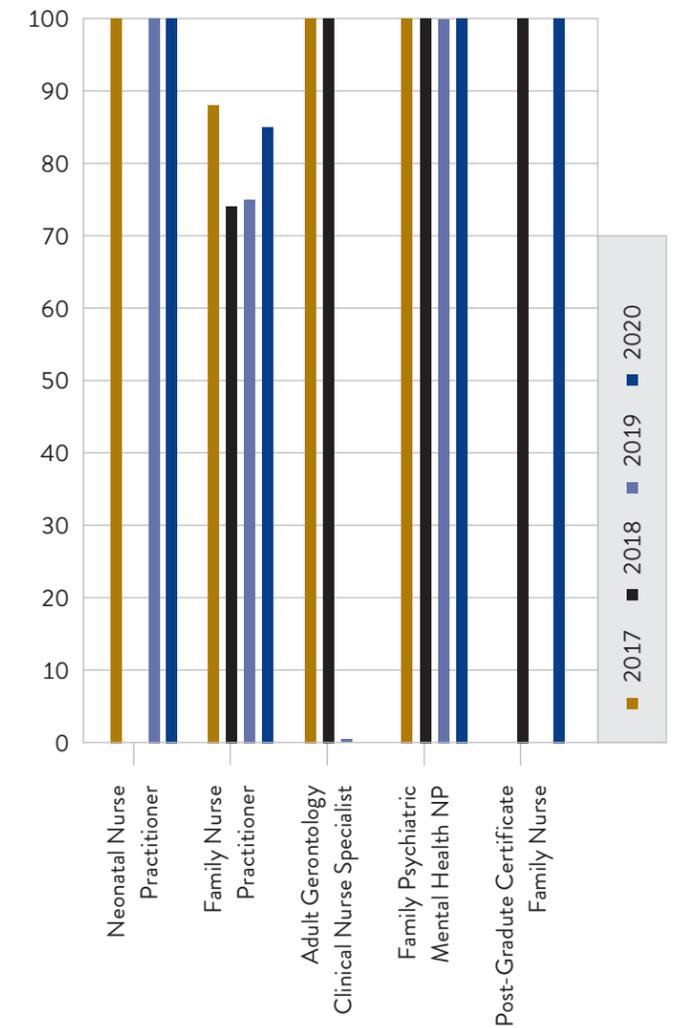


STATISTICS

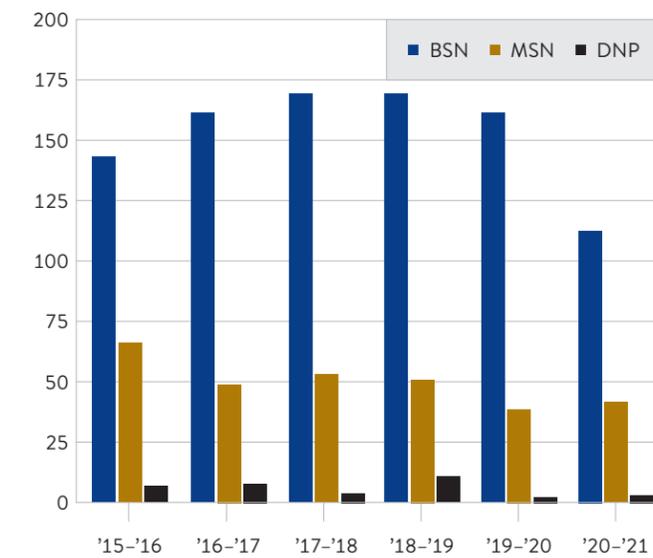
NCLEX PASS RATES



MSN GRADUATES CERTIFICATION PASS RATES



GRADUATION CLASS SIZE BY DEGREE



2020 JOB PLACEMENT WITHIN ONE YEAR OF GRADUATION

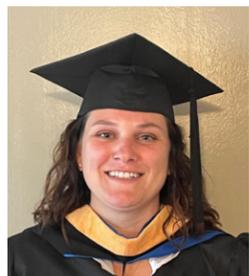
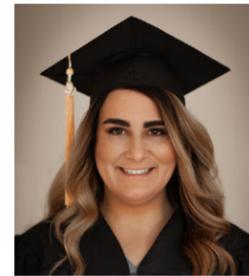
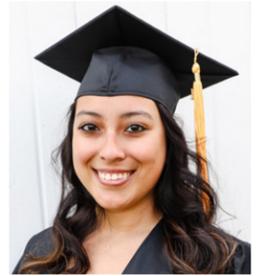
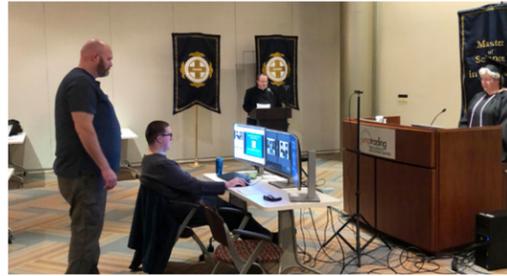


AVERAGE GPA

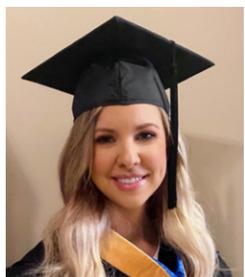
As of end of Spring 2021 semester

BSN	3.04
MSN	3.87
DNP	3.84

GRADUATION

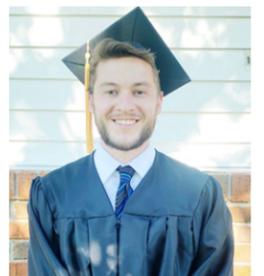


Virtual Graduation



MSN Graduates

BSN Graduates



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