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# THE

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# LAMP

"EVERYONE  
DESERVES DIGNITY,  
EVEN IN THEIR  
LAST MOMENTS ON  
EARTH"

- Stacie Klingler pg.12



**St. Elizabeth**  
SCHOOL OF NURSING  
Division of Franciscan Health

**COVID-19: THE  
FORMIDABLE FOE**

Students, staff and alumni reflect  
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**ARTIFICIAL PATIENTS.  
AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCE.**

How medical manikins are training a  
new legion of nurses  
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# LETTER from the DIRECTOR

## To Readers of *The Lamp*,

It only seems fitting that during the year the World Health Organization deemed “The International Year of the Nurse,” we experience the most challenging time for healthcare workers in decades. My heart swells with pride when I consider the mission nurses accept. We jump into action rather than avoid it and lend aid even when our safety is jeopardized; it’s what nurses do. As you well know, our collective career choice is one that involves some risk and always has.

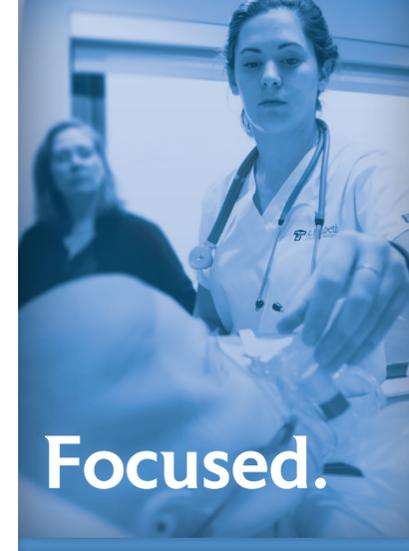
2020 also marks the 200th anniversary of Florence Nightingale’s birth. Over the centuries, nurses have dedicated themselves to providing critical patient care regardless of the scene surrounding them. The Novel Corona Virus took hold of our world like nothing we have ever experienced in our lifetime. It gives me pause to consider what Florence Nightingale endured as a nursing pioneer. The situations she encountered that were coined new or “novel” as she trained nursing students so long ago. Just as Florence rallied into action then, St. Elizabeth School of Nursing continues her legacy today.

Inside this issue of *The Lamp*, you will learn how St. Elizabeth staff and alumni served others during the first stages of the pandemic. From creating new ways of learning online to serving on the frontlines, our students, faculty and staff exemplified levels of resilience on par with our colleagues working with patients and supporting patient care during the pandemic. Another example of how nurses heed the call to follow in Christ’s footsteps by providing compassionate care to those in need no matter the crisis at hand.

Whether you are a precious alumnus, a newly-minted graduate, a bright-eyed student on the rise or a friend and supporter of our school, this magazine is for you. On behalf of all of us at St. Elizabeth School of Nursing, we hope you enjoy *The Lamp*.

Sincerely,

**Michelle L. Gerrety, EdD, MSN, RN**  
St. Elizabeth School of Nursing Director



Focused.



Proven.



Connected.

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*In memoriam of our alumni who walked in Christ's healing footsteps.  
Well done, good and faithful servants.*

<b>Janet Wright</b> Passed May 2020 1954 Graduate	<b>Mary Joan "JoAnn" Kolb-Farrell</b> Passed May 2020 1948 Graduate	<b>Debra Johnson</b> Passed May 2020 2007 Graduate	<b>Margaret Green</b> Passed June 2020 1995 Graduate	<b>Mary Catherine Hurst</b> Passed May 2020 1950 Graduate	<b>Genevieve Graham</b> Passed May 2020 1950 Graduate
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Brought to you by:



St. Elizabeth School of Nursing is where ordinary people become extraordinary nurses. For more than 120 years, we have focused on just one thing—nursing. Our holistic curriculum offers hands-on learning experiences. Small classes foster personal connection. Graduates leave primed for their aspired career—the career that, perhaps, chose them.

**Michelle Gerrety**  
St. Elizabeth School of Nursing Director

**Lisa Decker**  
Vice President of Marketing and Communications, Franciscan Health

**Jennifer Eberly**  
Director of Development, Franciscan Health Foundation

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**Join the Alumni Advisory Board of Directors today!**

Interested in serving on our Alumni Advisory Board of Directors?

Contact **Jennifer Eberly** at 765-423-6812 for more information.

*The Advisory Board currently meets 3-4 times per year.*

## STUDENT MISSION TRIP 2021

Jonestown, Mississippi | March 11-18, 2021

**Nursing students are planning a mission trip to Jonestown, Mississippi with the organization But God Ministries from March 11-18, 2021.**

Throughout the school's history, students have had the opportunity to participate in transcultural nursing mission trips for comprehensive examination of individuals, groups and communities regarding their health-related cultural beliefs, values and practices.



Past mission trips to Haiti, Honduras and Native American reservations in Arizona and North Dakota.



### HOW CAN YOU HELP?

By making a donation to the 2021 mission trip, you will be helping our students provide aid and support to communities in need. **Donations for the mission trip can be included with your remittance envelope.**

*But God Ministries is a 501(c)(3), non-profit organization that shares the love of Jesus Christ through building sustainable communities around the world. Learn more at [ButGodMinistries.com](http://ButGodMinistries.com).*

## WELCOME INCOMING FALL 2020 STUDENTS

St. Elizabeth School of Nursing extends a warm welcome to our newest cohort of students! We are honored they chose our program to launch their nursing careers and follow in Christ's healing footsteps.

**62** Total students

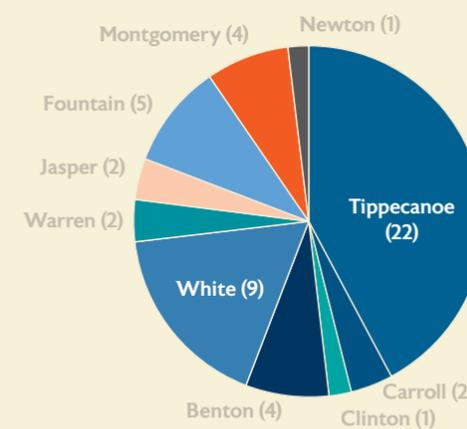
**58** Female

**4** Male



**30** Traditional students  
less than 24 years of age

**32** Non-traditional students  
over the age of 24



### Students from surrounding counties

### Home States

Students in the incoming class are from one of the following states:



Indiana



Ohio



Washington



Illinois

# ARTIFICIAL PATIENTS. AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCE.

## How medical manikins are training a new legion of nurses

Absorbing the second-floor visuals of St. Elizabeth School of Nursing's Simulation Lab (SIM Lab), a typical assortment of equipment catches one's eye: crash carts, blood pressure cuffs, oxygen tanks and tubing. Then there's Maggie: a high-fidelity manikin that simulates the birthing process. Maggie may experience postpartum hemorrhage, demand comfort and reassurance as the life of her newborn hangs in the balance, or her delivery may conclude in the perfect picture of technological bliss. **Just a small sampling of scenarios students encounter in the most life-like setting possible as they prepare to become nurses.**

The SIM Lab is a busy hive of activity and a natural extension of St. Elizabeth's holistic curriculum. Here, classwork and clinical practice intertwine with opportunities that come as close as "humanly" possible to providing healthcare to real patients. Procedures and tasks are programmed into the medical manikins. Robotic intelligence that can blink its eyes as a voice narrates the surrogate patient's words from a control booth. **Teamwork, high-level thinking and problem-solving are significant components to students learning what acute patient care entails in the safest, most supportive environment possible.** Whether replicating critical or routine care, these scenarios extensively train learners to be prepared in the field, internalize information and finally execute a treatment plan.

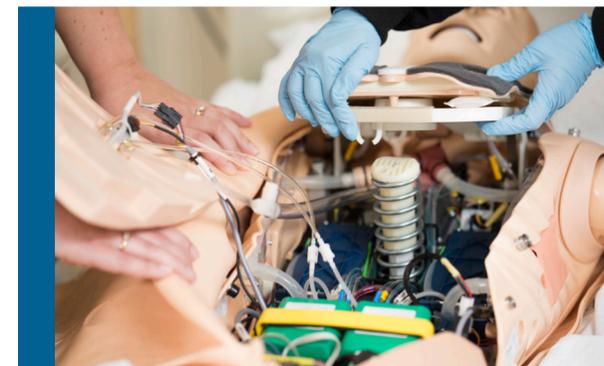
Healthcare education has ramped up a notch with the latest iteration of medical manikins. Patient simulation has come a long way since the first CPR training manikin, Resusci Anne, hit the scene in the 1960s. Meeting the dynamic needs of today's patients within the complexity of healthcare includes incorporating technology that can

pinpoint student strengths and areas to improve upon with real-time, virtual feedback. As nursing education has evolved, so too has the way students learn. High-risk situations equal zero chances of real-life mortality within the confines of the SIM Lab. **Students learn from errors and successes on plastic patients knowing the manikins will survive to help them learn another day.**

Along with Maggie, you'll find additional manikins. SIM Junior is a child manikin who stands in for pediatric patients four to eight years of age. Junior is part of two ongoing simulations for two different courses. SIM Newbie is the bionic bouncing baby of the group. Newbie has an umbilical cord that can be cut, and medications can be administered into the umbilicus area. Each artificial patient comes complete with heart, lung and bowel sounds. The manikins are defibrillator compatible, meaning each one can be shocked "back to life."

Head-to-toe assessments are a critical first step in providing patient data to the healthcare team. The unique design of the medical manikins allows faculty to train students in emergent, clinical and typical nursing backdrops. Faculty and the lab technician collaborate in programming various symptoms that lead students on the hunt toward collecting data and forming a diagnosis. From future RNs knocking on the door and introducing themselves to abrupt medical emergencies, these simulated patient encounters seem nothing but real.

Lauria Lanke coordinates the St. Elizabeth School of Nursing SIM Lab. Her computer technology background and medical experience made her the perfect consult when formulating the lab's layout and goals for learning. **"I do whatever research and programming are necessary to create real-life simulations so students can meet critical criteria to care for patients properly."**



The manikins under Lanke's watchful eye are healthcare simulation hubs. These modern-day techno miracles in the world of higher learning can range from low-fidelity to high-fidelity. Low-fidelity manikins teach IV skills or CPR. Mid-range medical manikins offer training skills with minimal computerized components. High-fidelity manikins, like Maggie who is programmed for impending motherhood, raise the bar in healthcare education.

After planning sessions with each professor regarding the critical criteria to cover and skills students must gain, Lanke goes to work programming and creating special effects. "Our SIM Lab manikins mimic many of the physiological processes of the body. They can literally produce hundreds of sounds that nurses need to be keenly aware of. Sounds that range from what an irregular bowel may sound like to the lungs in all four quadrants, front and back," she explains. When working with real patients, the sounds nurses hear recall to what they learned in the lab.

Taking a pulse, treating head wounds, dispensing medication and addressing abdominal issues are among the limitless ways manikins are utilized. "Currently, I'm in the process of creating a simulated stomach with actual stomach content for students to practice inserting a feeding tube into the belly," Lanke shares. **"It's amazing the things we can create to give students the realest experience possible."**



With a critical eye and a heart for guiding nursing students, Lanke knows St. Elizabeth sends confident graduates into the healthcare world that are ready to provide patient care on day one. St. Elizabeth is driven to provide students with the tools they need to be successful as professionals and individuals. "Everyone at St. Elizabeth truly wants the best for our students. There is a depth of care on a personal level that fuels the staff and faculty's desire to see them succeed beyond the classroom."

Investing in nursing education of this magnitude is no small feat. **The SIM Lab is a sign of how committed St. Elizabeth School of Nursing Director Michelle Gerrety, EdD, MSN, RN is when it comes to educating tomorrow's nurses.** "The best interests of our students are always in the forefront of my mind. I'm proud of our exemplary staff who go above and beyond to lead our students down the road to becoming the best nurses possible," Gerrety shares.



Michelle Gerrety isn't the only one with a deep passion for educating nurses. Years ago, with only a semester left in nursing school, a car accident derailed Lanke's studies. After a long recovery, a newfound love of computer science led her to earn her degree in technology with a focus on web design and computer networking. Little did Lanke know then that her dream of a nursing career would one day collide with this technological skill set. When you hear the excitement in her voice about her position at the school, it is evident Lanke is where she was destined to be. **"It is truly wonderful to work with a school that supports its students. I have been blessed to be at St. Elizabeth supporting new nurses from the beginning of their education.** The learning curve is steep on the path to becoming a nurse, and I have nothing but grace to meet students where they are as they head toward where they are destined to be."



# VIRTUAL ALUMNI EVENT

NOVEMBER **5** 2020 | 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM  
*Eastern Standard Time*

## Honoring the following anniversary years:

- 60 year anniversary – 1960
- 50 year anniversary – 1970
- 25 year anniversary – 1995
- 10 year anniversary – 2010

## Join us online!

Due to COVID-19, we have decided to hold our annual alumni event virtually.  
**Registration is required. Once you are registered, you will receive a link to log into the meeting.**  
 We look forward to seeing and visiting with you virtually!

Register here: [StESoN.org/Alumni2020](https://StESoN.org/Alumni2020)

For more information, call Jennifer Eberly at 765-423-6812 or email [jennifer.eberly@franciscanalliance.org](mailto:jennifer.eberly@franciscanalliance.org).

# Sigma Theta Tau

## International Honor Society of Nursing

**Xi Nu**, a Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing chapter, has been affiliated with the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne, Indiana for 25 years. Sigma is the second-largest nursing organization in the world with close to 135,000 active members. Their roots date back to 1922, when six Indiana University nursing students founded the honor society.

### Nurse Leader Membership Criteria

Nurse leader candidates must:

- Be legally recognized to practice nursing in their country.
- Have a minimum of a baccalaureate degree or the equivalent in any field.
- Demonstrate achievement in nursing. Candidates will be asked to explain their achievements in the following categories:

- Scholarship
- Leadership
- Service of Practice

For more information email Dr. Stephanie Otteing, USF counselor at [SOETTING@sf.edu](mailto:SOETTING@sf.edu) or visit [join.sigmanursing.org](http://join.sigmanursing.org).

**All alumni are encouraged to join and be part of the organization and its mission.**

Help us congratulate our chapter's newest members!

### MAY GRADUATES



Kyle Davis



Michelle Lipscomb



Mikayla Dross



Miranda Sebree



Tina Tanselle

### JULY GRADUATES



Ashlyn Collins-King



Kaelyn Kerr



Shelby Stephens



Victoria Wake



## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

**Madyson Davenport**

Class of July 2020

Madyson Davenport is one of the newest alumni of St. Elizabeth School of Nursing. A member of the July 2020 cohort of graduates, Madyson hails from Greater Lafayette and has accepted a position with Franciscan Health as a cardiac care nurse. Her enthusiasm for completing her education and beginning her career during a time of global pandemic is a testament to the solid curricular and faith-based foundation she garnered at St. Elizabeth.

### How did schooling change during the COVID-19 outbreak?

My class was so close to graduation when the pandemic hit. We were worried the semester would be delayed or that graduation may not happen until December, perhaps even July 2021. That was so scary for us. However, St. Elizabeth came up with a plan and made sure we finished our classes, clinicals, exams and graduated.

### How did you cope with these changes?

When I was in school, one of my teachers would say to each of us, "Tell me one thing you did for yourself this week." That stuck with me throughout nursing school and still does today. Once a week, I try to do something just for me.

### Personally, what is your biggest concern right now?

Starting my career during a pandemic is exciting yet also a little scary.

### What's something positive that's come from this?

During the early days of the pandemic, I worked on a COVID-19 floor as a patient care technician. Our community came together to care for us by donating food and delivering cards and letters.

### How does it make you feel knowing your profession is at the front lines of this pandemic?

As a nursing student, I was excited and proud to jump in and help fellow nurses. Then it became overwhelming and wore on me mentally and emotionally. That's when it really became necessary for my well-being that I continued self-care so I could recharge and help others.

### How did it affect your job search?

Looking for a job was different than I anticipated. Lots of Zoom interviews and phone conversations rather than in-person. There were no longer job shadowing opportunities. I relied on information from the hiring manager and asked a lot of questions to get a good picture of what the position would look like, and I accepted a cardiac care position with Franciscan Health Lafayette.

### How do you think St. Elizabeth prepared you for circumstances like this?

St. Elizabeth did a great job of making us all feel prepared and confident in our nursing skills. When I go into the hospital to do my job, pandemic or not, I will feel a little less nervous and a lot more self-assured.

### What 3 words best describe how you're feeling right now?

I'm excited to finally be the nurse I've wanted to become since I was a little girl. I am anxious to be a new nurse during this time. Ultimately, I'm grateful to have finished my degree and that my family and I have remained well.

### Do you think this experience will make you a better nurse?

Caring for COVID patients has challenged me and seasoned nurses. In the long run, this experience will make all nurses nothing but stronger.

### Do you have a message or any advice for other nursing students trying to cope?

Hang in there! Nursing school is not easy. Be proud of attempting to be part of the healthcare community, especially in the middle of a pandemic.



## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

**Abbi Peña**

St. Elizabeth School of Nursing  
Assistant Professor &  
Chair of Nursing Governance Council

Abbi Peña's studies and career have deep Indiana roots. After receiving her diploma from St. Elizabeth School of Nursing in 2003 and BSN degree from Saint Joseph's College in 2004, Abbi continued her nursing education at Ball State University. There, she earned her Master's of Science in Nursing Education in 2012 and became a certified family nurse practitioner in 2019. Although busy in the classroom guiding the next generation of nurses, Abbi also serves the community as a nurse practitioner in West Lafayette, Indiana.

### What is your role at St. Elizabeth School of Nursing?

I am the principal course instructor for both pathophysiology and pharmacology. During the 2020 spring semester, I taught clinical nursing courses while also assisting third-level students with their Nursing 305 med-surg clinicals.

### How has your role at St. Elizabeth changed since the COVID-19 outbreak?

Luckily, one of the courses I teach, pharmacology, was already offered online, so the transition for this particular class was easy for students. For my other class, it was a matter of adjusting a few things to be able to deliver that content remotely.

### What's been the hardest part of this pandemic?

It's been difficult not to be able to jump in and help when I see a need for nurses and healthcare workers in larger cities. Even though my work in my community is important, it's hard as a healthcare provider when you see areas in crisis and are unable to help immediately.

### What's something positive that's come from this?

The ability of healthcare workers to be creative and come up with new ways to meet the needs of patients is important, and the same can be said for nursing instructors, too.

### Do you think COVID-19 will affect curriculum in the future?

Every day, we consider if there are new skills or assessments we should teach students not only for clinicals but as skills to have upon graduation. As faculty, we've already discussed ways we can add stations to our Skills Fair on the proper procedures for personal protective equipment.

### How does it make you feel knowing you're preparing the front lines for pandemics like this?

I'm friends with many former students on social media. When I see their posts from all over the United States, from coast-to-coast, discussing their role in this pandemic, I'm very proud of the work they are doing.

### Do you think this experience will cause people to become better nurses?

Nurses are caring in nature, yet COVID has brought out an entirely different side of who we are and what we do—something the public doesn't often have a chance to see. With visitor restrictions, I've seen stories about nurses going above and beyond to connect with their patients and patient's family members. Nurses are also connecting with themselves on a new level as humans and caregivers like never before.

### Do you have a message or any advice for nursing students trying to cope?

While classes are virtual, and while this pandemic continues, I encourage nursing students to take time for themselves. Things get crazy busy at home with responsibilities, kids and schoolwork. It's vital to create a routine to clear your mind and take good care of yourself so you can care for others.

# COVID-19

## THE FORMIDABLE FOE

### Students, staff and alumni reflect

COVID-19 fast and furiously arrived at America's doorstep. It quickly secured a foothold in densely populated areas with cases multiplying at an uncontrollable pace. The country watched with bated breath as New York City was under siege, California sheltered in place and testing centers failed to keep up with demand. Institutions around the country took note of what may be heading their way. On the front lines, courageous nurses prepared themselves for what may come. They steadied for the worst while praying for calm and strength.

St. Elizabeth School of Nursing's alumni and friends have unique stories capturing the historical moment when COVID-19 arrived. This collective snapshot of their resiliency, grit, and spirit represents the more prominent portrait of all who have graced our campus as fearless educators, backbone support staff and beloved students past and present.

**OUR STUDENTS** St. Elizabeth's students, whether fresh-faced or on the cusp of graduating, devote themselves to becoming the hands and feet of Christ. Hours of hands-on experiences. Late-night study groups. Juggling life's demands and school requirements. These facets of their life become routine. Until the unexpected happens: a global pandemic.

Tina Tanselle's May graduation date was on the horizon. Always the planner, which she credits to the organizational skills gleaned at St. Elizabeth, Tanselle completed her required clinical hours weeks before their due date—before the threat of COVID touched Indiana's borders. "I was one of the lucky ones," Tanselle shared. "I had planned it that way—to be done early with my clinical hours—not knowing what was about to happen." Her foresight was a blessing in disguise as intensity ramped up for classmates who needed to complete their hours. Faculty quickly reached out to hospital contacts, ensuring students had a place to complete their work.



Tina Tanselle at the May 2020 graduation ceremony

While preparing for graduation, Tanselle found solace spending time outside away from stressors and uncertainty. Early morning runs provided comfort and allowed her to work through some disappointments. Her long-planned celebratory vacation was canceled, as was the pomp and circumstance of the graduation she had envisioned. Still, Tanselle knew to look for the bright spots in dark times. "I've loved seeing the goodness in people and watching communities come together to help one another," she shared.

As a nation, we witnessed it too. Meals delivered to emergency rooms. Evening cheers of adoration echoed across cities. Small offerings of gratitude that deeply touched front line workers.

Michelle Lipscomb, another newly minted May 2020 graduate, tutored students rising through the ranks of St. Elizabeth. As campus emptied, Lipscomb struggled with being less accessible to her mentees. "Before, I could pop into a study room the minute they asked, 'Hey, could you please help me with this?' because we were all on campus, together." She continued reaching out to those she tutored while dealing with her own challenges: completing clinical hours, studying for the National Council of Licensure Examination (NCLEX) and helping her children shift to online learning. Lipscomb's concern mirrored the faculty's. They also yearned to effectively communicate their availability and meet student needs, no matter what they may be. Waiving some of the necessary licensure requirements and adding a grace period to complete the NCLEX, senior nursing students across the United States were actively recruited to help fight the pandemic.

Lipscomb's future patients will be blessed by a caregiver armed with personal and professional decision-making skills. Referencing how St. Elizabeth gave her the tools to evaluate situations as a professional, she confidently stated that after completing her licensure examination, "I'll hit the ground running, ready to serve."



Michelle Lipscomb at the May 2020 graduation ceremony

**OUR STAFF AND FACULTY** The ordinarily active campus of St. Elizabeth became unrecognizable. Once bustling halls were eerily quiet. The classrooms were empty. The busy SIM Lab laid dormant except for one person: Lauria Lanke. Lanke coordinates and programs medical manikin simulations. Working with instructors, she creates limitless patient scenarios, ranging from detecting irregular bowel sounds to administering medication. For future RNs, this lab is the place for actively learning the ins and outs of intake, diagnosis and patient care.

When St. Elizabeth shuttered on-campus learning, faculty partnered with Lanke. Together, they devised new learning techniques. “Rather than students engaging in simulations, it was professors who stepped into the spotlight,” she recalled. The skilled technician, who typically voices the patient or doctor in the control booth, rapidly helped faculty carve out a new instructional path to keep student learning on track. Patient scenarios were recorded, then students watched and reported back to instructors. Creativity abounded as faculty injected humor into lessons and relieved the pressures of the new climate. “The faculty created personas like ‘Nurse Nancy.’ They donned wigs, created accents and injected silly little things into learning,” Lanke shared. Genuine content mastery was of the utmost importance to all staff.

**“Our students are not just another piece of paper to instructors. We want them to perform well as nurses and in life, and not just in times of crisis-always.”**

—LAURIA LANKE

Some students were already well-versed in online coursework. For others, the curve to adapt was more significant. Abbi Peña, the principal course instructor for pharmacology and pathophysiology, stressed that students were not left to their own devices. Virtual meeting platforms, debriefs after learning activities and one-on-one meetings quickly

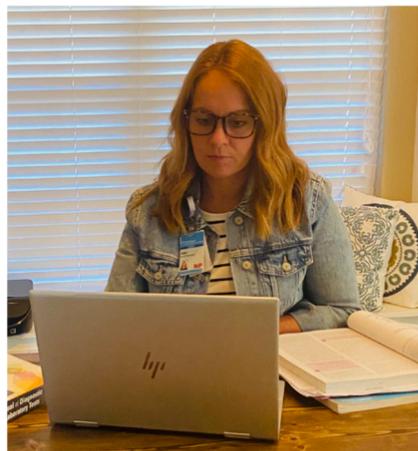
transpired from something fearful to something welcomed. “In the beginning, we sensed students’ anxiety not having the same resources as they did in the classroom or during clinicals.” Peña noted a sense of ease replaced trepidation. As the days and weeks progressed, students learned to enjoy remote learning and meetings. “Rather than set appointments on campus, we met virtually at the student’s convenience,” something Peña plans to continue in the future.

Peña added that the flexibility and adaptability of completing coursework while striving to find a sense of normalcy during the pandemic parallels real life as a nurse.

**“RNs have to remain adaptable. Perhaps adjusting rapidly to new ways of learning showed students just how quickly things change in nursing.”**

—ABBI PEÑA

When your holistic curriculum is entrenched in active learning and participation, thinking outside the box is a must. Stacie Klingler, an assistant professor whose specialty is pediatrics and NICU nursing, flipped the learning process. “I collected my daughter’s baby doll, some supplies and created learning scenarios.” Klingler’s student nurses, via GoToMeeting, directed her every move. “We could no longer do clinicals the way we always had. I considered what I wanted to communicate to my students and what they truly needed to know.” Student feedback was positive. “It’s a challenge to teach skills and concepts without them being physically there, and yet, the students liked it and did well.”



Abbi Peña hard at work



Stacie Klingler instructing students

**“Everyone deserves dignity, especially in their last moments on earth,”** she professed. Another core belief proudly embedded into St. Elizabeth’s nursing program.

Pride swells when faculty discuss former students on the front lines. Jean Catron, who instructs pathophysiology, pharmacology and medical-surgical classes, beams at the thought. Like other St. Elizabeth instructors who keep in touch with alumni via email and social media, Catron has reached out to former students, balancing her wonderment in their fortitude with concern for their safety. Her devotion is evident. “There comes a point where students start to feel like your children,” she mused, and it’s understandable given the time invested in each person who walks through these doors.

St. Elizabeth constructs confidence-building opportunities for students within their curriculum. This natural curiosity to learn and improve molds students into individuals who want to be their best—always. On an average day, providing above board care and nurturing a patient’s body, mind and soul can be stressful. Catron emphasized that COVID-19 introduced another facet healthcare must address: caring for their own mental health. **“When this crisis is over, I hope mental health resources will be available for all healthcare professionals. They deserve access to help at all times. Not just during a pandemic.”**



Jean Catron (white coat) with students

The early days of the HIV/AIDS epidemic is the closest comparison Klingler can name looking at what we face today. The isolation COVID patients feel as some draw their last breath reminds Klingler of her time as a student nurse comforting dying AIDS patients.

**OUR ALUMNI** St. Elizabeth is proud of its alumni who serve in various capacities around the world—on the front lines, spearheading initiatives and leading departments. No matter their role, they jump into the fray, lend a hand and care for one another in moments of distress, fatigue and illness.

COVID-19 brought significant and immediate change to the world of healthcare overnight. This statement is far from hyperbole when you hear alumni recount the very moment everything changed before their eyes. Jody Mathew, Director of Operations at Franciscan Health Lafayette East and a 1978 St. Elizabeth graduate, recalled the early days of sorting through shifting information to keep staff informed and—most importantly—to remain ready no matter what. “Our timeline to prepare was short,” Mathew said, reflecting on the hours and days of readying the hospital. That included planning for looming unknowns, such as running out of ventilators, making end-of-life decisions, providing emergent staff housing and arranging childcare options.



Jody Mathew and her reason for wearing a mask

**“We worked tirelessly to provide answers, be ready, and support our staff, some of whom were frightened and uneasy. What they needed was not a chain of emails coming from the office. They needed a shoulder to cry on and someone checking in as they checked on their patients.”**

—JODY MATHEW

Medical teams carried concern for another reason as well. Stories dotted the country, noting people refraining from seeking medical treatment for issues unrelated to COVID. Most commonly heard were fears of contracting the virus along with worries of taking precious space from someone who needed it more. “We had to postpone elective surgeries,

yet some cases required immediate interventions. If patients came to the hospital due to illness other than COVID, we knew they felt compelled to risk infection to come,” Mathew shared.

Hospitals are not the only institutions where patients seek treatment daily. A 2017 graduate, Emily Weesner Clark is now an infection control nurse at a southern Indiana prison. Inmate lockdown was instituted to keep COVID from infiltrating the staff and those incarcerated. Clark became a traveling nurse, visiting patients in their cells. Her concerns centered around not only the virus spreading but also inmate aggression due to their restricted mobility. Clark credits her alma mater for building her confidence in handling daily stressors, responsibilities and times of crisis. “St. Elizabeth prepared me to be confident in my medical training and leadership skills.” Clark knows the school’s emphasis on community and working together led her to embrace collaboration. **“I’m blown away by the teamwork that’s blossomed during the crisis at the prison. We had to get creative and work together.”**



Emily Weesner Clark

This pandemic has affected every area of healthcare operation, reconfiguring personnel, policies and roles. Rather than turning away from needs that arose, coworkers stepped up and stepped in. Debbie Riley, Director of Patient Care Services for Franciscan Health in Rensselaer and a class of 1980 alumnae, saw the ethic of working together swell in real-time. Staff assisted Environmental Services to keep areas safe and clean. Screeners covered every hospital entrance while drive-thru testing services dispersed teams into the field. Together, they made it work, and the camaraderie continues.



Debbie Riley (floral jacket) working with RN's to ensure the highest quality of care

**“Even as our volume of patients slowly returns to more normal numbers, staff are figuring out how they can continue performing extra duties to help one another in our everyday work,”** Riley said.

Riley, along with the other students, staff and alumni who kindly lent their time to this article, emphasized the need for all of us to extend grace to ourselves and one another. Mercy and compassion are at the core of nursing. And in this year of the nurse—celebrating the life of Florence Nightingale and the contributions of nurses through the years—we recognize the grace required to make peace with a hard day at work. Nurses wake up and do it all over again while caring for their families, patients and healthcare counterparts. Debbie Riley eloquently sums it up best:

**“Nurses are superheroes, and even superheroes need support from others.”**

—DEBBIE RILEY

## Nominate an Outstanding Alumni!

To nominate someone, visit [StESoN.org/Nominate-Outstanding-Alumni](http://StESoN.org/Nominate-Outstanding-Alumni). Outstanding alumni will be announced and recognized at the fall virtual event on November 5, 2020.

# TAKE HOME A PIECE OF HISTORY

Donate \$150 or more and receive a commemorative brick!



Commemorative Brick

*“I spent most of three years living on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> floors of the School of Nursing building. Classes were held mostly in the basement and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. In the late '90s when I attended Saint Joseph's College (Rensselaer) for my bachelor's degree, several classes were in the School of Nursing building. When the idea came about to purchase a brick with our motto—Vita Aliis Vota—to support the nursing scholarship fund, I was thrilled to be able to have a piece of history as well as provide assistance to future nursing students.”*

— Ann Minnicus, MSN, BSN, RN, CGRN, Class of 1977

## GET YOUR BRICK TODAY!

Secure your commemorative brick by donating \$150 or more to the St. Elizabeth School of Nursing.

For donation information, contact Jennifer Eberly at [jennifer.eberly@franciscanalliance.org](mailto:jennifer.eberly@franciscanalliance.org) or call 765-423-6812.

**Bricks are limited!**

## REMINDER TO DONATE OLD UNIFORMS

We're looking for nursing uniforms from various eras to showcase in our new space and at alumni events.

If you're willing to donate your old St. Elizabeth School of Nursing uniform, please contact Jennifer Eberly at 765-423-6812 or [jennifer.eberly@franciscanalliance.org](mailto:jennifer.eberly@franciscanalliance.org).





Mary Lou Farrell-Jones (left) and her late mother Mary Joan "JoAnn" Kold-Farrell (right)

## DONOR SPOTLIGHT

### Mary Lou Farrell-Jones

St. Elizabeth School of Nursing is pleased to announce the newest student leadership award established in honor of alumnae Mary Joan "JoAnn" Kolb-Farrell. This generous gift was made possible by Mary Lou Farrell-Jones in loving memory of her mother. We are grateful for the enduring support and generosity of alumni and friends who are committed to helping us educate the next generation of nurses.

Always a nurse until her final days, Joan Farrell, the ninety-two-year-old grandmother of three who was six months into hospice care, was genuinely concerned for her fellow RNs during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic. Farrell, who always believed nursing was not her job but rather her calling, turned to her daughter, Mary Lou, and fretfully inquired, "Do you think I should volunteer?"

Born on December 16, 1927 in Russiaville, Indiana, Farrell graduated from St. Elizabeth School of Nursing in 1948. In 1949 she married Paul Farrell. Later the two welcomed a daughter: Mary Lou. Farrell was also a proud grandmother to Heather, Maryon and Hayden. As a highly skilled RN, she was a female pioneer at the forefront of revolutionary healthcare. Highly regarded for her work as the second Head Nurse of St. Elizabeth's newly formed ICU in the 1960s, Farrell was recruited to help establish the first Midwestern Cardiac Care unit of its kind. "Mother was always looked upon as a trusted colleague by the doctors she worked with. Physicians knew she always put the patient first and wasn't afraid to speak her mind," Jones proudly reflected.

At the inception of the Progressive Care unit, Farrell was named supervisor. She also served as President of the St. Elizabeth School of Nursing Alumni Association and was an Indiana State Nurses Association board member. Eager to recruit and mentor new nurses, Farrell always flagged St. Elizabeth graduates' resumes for a job interview. "My mother knew the quality she could expect from St. Elizabeth nurses. This award honors students who show confidence and leadership just as Mother did," Jones shared.

In Farrell's youth, blue ribbons told the tale of her involvement with the Tippecanoe County 4-H Fair, showing dairy cattle with her brothers. A talented quilter who also played a mean game of Euchre, Farrell was part of the cardiac team for Purdue Athletics football and basketball teams. Kind-hearted mentor to many; fierce advocate for quality patient care; devoted wife, mother and grandmother; and a Purdue Basketball fanatic, Joan Farrell died on May 18, 2020, with her loving daughter by her side. She was 92 years old.

## FEATURED SCHOLARSHIP

### Brenda E. Murray Memorial Scholarship

The Brenda E. Murray Memorial Scholarship was established in 2019 by Brenda's family in her memory. Brenda was a dedicated nurse, wife, sister, mother, family member and friend. After graduating from St. Elizabeth School of Nursing in 1989, she began her nursing career in the emergency department at Home Hospital. She then went on to have a successful 29-year career as a nurse at Roudebush VA Medical Center. Brenda's life may have been shortened due to a battle with cancer, but her legacy and devotion to others continues to shine with each new day.

## SCHOLARSHIP/AWARD OPPORTUNITIES

You can support St. Elizabeth School of Nursing by contributing directly to our general fund, general scholarship fund, alumni association fund, one of our many endowed scholarships or start your own!

- Betty Jean Lowery Nursing Scholarship
- Betty J. McCay Schober Memorial Scholarship
- Brenda E. Murray Memorial Scholarship
- Candy Genda Nursing Scholarship
- Captain Sally Watlington, USN (Ret.) St. Elizabeth School of Nursing Scholarship
- Franciscan Health Auxiliary Lafayette Scholarship
- Gertrude Loeb Rosen Scholarship
- James & JoAnn Vorst Nursing Scholarship
- Juanita Burnett Marchand Memorial Scholarship
- Liz Pullin Award
- Mabel M. Knight Scholarship
- Nola J. Gentry St. Elizabeth School of Nursing Scholarship
- Pat Gobel Award
- St. Clare Medical Center Auxiliary St. Elizabeth School of Nursing Scholarship
- Susan Oesterling Whitaker Nursing Scholarship
- The Jacqueline Bahler BSN, RN St. Elizabeth School of Nursing Scholarship
- The Joan Farrell Leadership Award
- The Wilson Family Nursing Scholarship
- William & Martha Fancher Nursing Scholarship



MAY 2020



Kyle Davis



Michelle Lipscomb



Mikayla Dross



Miranda Sebree



Karly Keppeler



Tina Tanselle



Brandi Dyer



Victoria Hutchinson



Rebecca Johnson



Ashley Pankau

CONGRATULATIONS 2020 GRADUATES!

WELCOME TO OUR ALUMNI FAMILY



JULY 2020



Ashlyn Collins-King



Kaelyn Kerr



Shelby Stephens



Victoria Wake



Alexandra Darbro



Maranda Holzer



Candice Arnold



Madyson Davenport



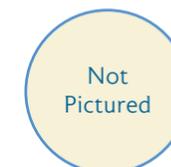
Maura Igo



Allyson See



Kristal Ranalli-Gramelspacher



Morgan Crowel

Not Pictured



# Looking for a job?

## Franciscan Health is hiring!

Join us and experience a **faith-based, stable environment** with **excellent benefits** and **opportunities for growth.**



Please visit **[Jobs.FranciscanHealth.org](https://Jobs.FranciscanHealth.org)** to explore available job opportunities.

# ST. ELIZABETH SCHOOL OF NURSING NEW DONOR WALL

Each year we will update this wall to showcase the previous year's donors, endowments and Bonzel Society members. The Donor Wall is located in the main hallway at St. Elizabeth School of Nursing in the Franciscan Education Center (Franciscan Health Lafayette central campus). It was made possible by the alumni association and Franciscan Health Foundation.



**We are extremely grateful for the support from our alumni, faculty, families and friends.**

All gifts made to St. Elizabeth School of Nursing allow us to continue Christ's healing ministry and make a lasting impact in the lives of our students.

## Give Today!

For more information on giving opportunities, establishing a fund or scholarship, or making a planned gift, please contact Jennifer Eberly at [jennifer.eberly@franciscanalliance.org](mailto:jennifer.eberly@franciscanalliance.org) or 765-423-6812.

[StESoN.org/Donate](https://StESoN.org/Donate)



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