



# Dimensions



**Exploring Nursing & Health Science Careers  
Scholarships | Methodist Faculty Accomplishments**



# Dimensions

Issue 1 - 2013

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## President's Update

There are many factors that make Methodist College (MC) an excellent educational institution, but one of the most important is the faculty. The MC faculty diligently works to assure that our students get the very best education. They work to assure the program curricula are cutting edge, work to give the students the best learning experiences, and create clinical and community learning experiences in which our students are able to learn through true immersion. The faculty has worked to create learning experiences in locations across our nation. They are presently working to develop travel courses that will introduce our students to international study.

The MC faculty are also very involved in their own professional development as demonstrated by recent publications, presentations, grant writing activities, completion of advanced degrees, and participation in professional organizations.

The professional growth of our faculty supports their continued development in their professional fields as well as their role as educators. Our students benefit both directly and indirectly by this growth and development. The direct benefit is seen in the classroom and clinical as the faculty member uses his/her advanced knowledge and teaching expertise to assure that student learning is occurring. The indirect benefits come from the positive role modeling of the faculty member as he/she clearly sends the message of the importance of lifelong learning.

MC is indeed proud of the many accomplishments of our faculty.

**Dr. Kimberly Johnston, Edc, RNC, CNE**

## College Academic Administration

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President of the College

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# Methodist ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Class of 1963 - 50 Year Anniversary Celebration

## Dear Alumni,

The 2012-2013 academic year is coming to an end. We have had such a wonderful year of change and growth as a College and as an Alumni Association. As we move forward, we hope that you stay involved. Methodist Alumni Association is a non-dues based organization that includes graduates from Methodist Medical Center School of Nursing, Methodist College of Nursing and now Methodist College. We had our first graduating class of Methodist College walk across the stage in December. Some of these graduates are already stepping up to be involved in the Alumni Association. I have recently been given the opportunity to work with our current students in the role of Career Services. I believe it will be a great fit, as many of you have shown interest in opening your doors to our students so that they may learn about your careers.

It has been a joy to watch this year's 50 year graduates work with current students on a presentation for the reunion. They have laughed so much at the extreme differences and unique commonalities. This process has opened my eyes to the fact that many years may pass, but the overall goal of a nursing student is still the same; learn all that you can to provide the best patient care possible. There has been a strong tradition of pride throughout the years at our institution. I hope that we can all help continue that pride in being the best.

Sincerely,  
Jessica Dillon  
Advancement and Alumni Affairs Coordinator  
jdillon@methodistcol.edu



## Favorite Memories From the Class of 1963:

**Jean Spence Roth:** I enjoyed being at Children's Memorial over the Christmas Holidays.

**Mary E. Morton Geber:** I will never forget when Methodist housing moved into a new building. The walls were thin, the bathrooms were large, and the bathing arrangement was that several had to bathe at one time. There was one television in the reception area. There was one phone at the end of the hall for all to use. I had so many memories of Crestlawn: Susie marching the halls, the house mothers, roommates and classmates. All are such fond memories I keep. There were rules everywhere, and awful gray coats. I will never forget walking to Bradley.

**Susan K. Zetterlind Madden:** My favorite memories include my great roommates that I had all three years. I will never forget being terrified of being in charge at Children's Memorial. I always babysat for other nurses at Children's Memorial so that I could have extra money. I also will not forget working at Pekin Hospital on weekends for extra money. Another memory I have was trying to get to the vending machines without getting caught after hours, and also getting engaged during my rotation in Bartonville. Last but not least, I'll never forget walking to Bradley for class.

**Charlotte Davis Nicksch:** My favorite memories are recalling all the first times I did certain skills and the joy I had sharing my "firsts" with my friends and classmates and listening as they shared their "firsts". I remember the first bed bath, the first catheterization, the first enema, the first birth, the first death. I think one of the reasons I enjoyed teaching so much was that I was able to share my student's "firsts". I especially remember my first day of clinical. I had gone home for the weekend just before our first day at clinical. I took my uniform including my shoes home to show my family. When I arrived at the Peoria bus station I learned that my luggage had not arrived with me! I had more than one uniform, but I only had one pair of shoes. Fortunately, my roommate had clinical on a different day; so, Marty loaned me her shoes. Thanks again Marty for being there when I needed you!!

## Letter From the New Alumni Board President

I am a past graduate of Methodist College of Nursing in December of 2008. I am currently employed at Pekin Hospital Labor and Delivery unit and also at Buehler Home as a Home Health Supervisor. I am married to a understanding and wonderful husband who is also a nurse. We share many stories of work and understand each other's frustrations with everyday nursing obstacles. I have an active seven year old son Carter who asks me every day if I helped the babies or old people. I was recently accepted to University of Illinois Chicago to the three-year Family Nurse Practitioner Program. I look forward to starting this program in August of 2013. My future career goal is to be the primary nurse practitioner for a group of retirement homes caring for the elderly ensuring they have precise and compassionate end of life care.

I am very excited and honored to have been nominated as your Alumni Association President. I look forward to reorganizing the board with the ultimate goal of being accessible to students past and present. Methodist College changed my life and gave me the tools needed to become a successful professional nurse. I want to ensure that every student has a positive and impacting experience at Methodist College with the security of knowing they have thousands of alumni that support them every step of the way. I look forward to this year of change and growth in the Alumni Association. I am anxious to start working with all the supportive alumni who will assist with the goal to make the Alumni Association a solid foundation for our past and future alumni.

**Tarah Gibbs, RN BSN**



## All In The Family

There are so many stories of our alumni and current students that chose to come to Methodist because one of their family members went to school here or currently goes to school here. This made it easy to decide to share some of these stories with you. Each issue of Dimensions and our e-newsletter will now include short bios of these individuals. Samantha and Michelle Peters have been chosen to be featured in the first "All In The Family" segment. Both Peters sisters have been great additions to the student body at Methodist College.

Samantha Peters, class of 2012, was a student when it was time for her sister, Michelle Peters, to decide where to go to school. Michelle says, "I chose Methodist because I liked the room in the dorms and the price of the college and also the idea that I could have started the nursing courses earlier since this is a four year college." Michelle enjoys going to school here because she really enjoys the people. She has an interest in pediatrics or becoming a labor and delivery nurse. She has yet to start clinicals and hopes that her clinical experience will help guide her decision on her future career. She found this passion while studying at Methodist College. Sam was a very active student involved in Student Nurses Association, she was a Resident Advisor and helped to organize student recreational teams for softball and volleyball. Sam was also a scholarship recipient who volunteered regularly for the recruiting office to help encourage others to choose Methodist for their healthcare education. Sam currently works at OSF St. Francis on the Oncology Unit and is now Chemotherapy Certified and ACLS certified.

## Remembrance:



Ruth Ann (Boettger) Brewer	September 2012	Class of 1971
Mary Ann (Snyder) Hofreiter	October 2012	Class of 1946
Nellie (Walker) Reed	September 2012	Class of 1951
Helen (Bettisworth) Wertsch	March 2013	Class of 1938
Frances (Kiser) Wiegand	January 2013	Class of 1939



## Alumni Faculty Members

Debra Stark - Class of 1995

It has been the pleasure of Methodist College to employ several alumni members. As part of a new feature to showcase faculty members and their accomplishments, it was decided that introducing your peers and the role they play here at MC would be the starting point.

Debra Stark, who most of her peers know her as Debbie, will be the first faculty member presented through this new feature.

“I began my nursing career as a PCA (student aid) in oncology and adolescent behavioral health working weekends during the last two years of nursing school. I started as a nurse on the oncology unit on night shift. In 1996 I transferred to the maternal/child unit where I worked night shift until August of 2004. I then became the manager of the Labor and Delivery unit. In 2005, the manager of the Postpartum and Nursery units retired and I was the manager of all three. I started at the college in 2008 and taught Leadership and Management and in the Childbearing and Childrearing course. Since then I have had the pleasure to also teach in fundamentals, Concepts and Health and Healthcare, and Pathopharmacology in the face-to-face environment. I also teach in the online environment in our RN-BSN program in Management and Collaboration, Aging and Research. In spring 2012 I became the Upper Division Coordinator and in Fall 2012 the RN-BSN Program Coordinator. I am working to promote advanced education for nurses in our state and work with our administration, faculty, enrollment management and student services to provide the highest quality online program for nurses.

True to its past tradition, I believe that Methodist College has dedicated, passionate and gifted people that are impacting and changing nursing students' lives and in turn, patient's lives.

I have been married to my husband Dave for 35 years this June. Dave is a retired police sergeant. We have two daughters, Lori and Tracie. Lori is married to CJ and we have two grandsons, Conner who is 6 and Cooper who is 3. Tracie will graduate from ICC in May. In my spare time I like to draw, paint, cook and spend time with my family and friends.”

### EDUCATION HISTORY:

Methodist School of Nursing 1992-1995

University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC)  
returned for my BSN 1999-2001

Walden University  
MSN in Leadership and Management 2005-2007

Capella University PhD in Education  
specialty in Instructional Design and Online  
curriculum development October 2008-Jan 31, 2013.

### EMPLOYMENT HISTORY:

Methodist Medical Center  
Oncology and Behavior Health 1993-1995

Oncology 1995-1996

Maternal/Child Department 1996-2007

Methodist College of Nursing 2008-now

## Faculty Accomplishments

Theresa Schwindenhammer, Assistant Professor of Nursing, was recently selected to receive the Illinois Board of Higher Education's Nurse Educator Fellowship. This is a highly prestigious award. Methodist College has had three Nurse Educator Fellowship Recipients in the past three years. Congratulations Theresa! Assistant Professor of Nursing, Theresa Schwindenhammer, recently published, "Quality Improvement in Nursing Homes: An Evidence-Based Practice Guideline", Hartford Foundation.

Nora Sullivan received the UIC Kellogg Distinguished Alumni Award.

Connie Gowda co-authored an article "The Use of Web 2.0 Technologies" in the Jul/Aug edition of Nurse Educator.

Dr. Pam DiVito Thomas was elected to serve on the National League of Nursing Board of Governors.

Marjorie Getz, Health Science Program Coordinator, published "Evaluation of a Standardized All-Terrain Vehicle Safety Education Intervention for Youth in rural Central Illinois" in The Journal of Primary Care and Community Health.

# Congratulations to This Year's Scholarship Recipients

## ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP

Robert Zummallen  
Danielle Pendleton  
Benjamin Anderson  
Lanore Spahn

## ANN LANDWIRTH NICKOLL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Tobias Pacheco

## CAROL SUE MAJESKE SCHOLARSHIP

Kendra King

## DEBBIE SIMON SCHOLARSHIP

Breanne Masters

## DONNA MILLER SCHOLARSHIP

Tiffany Randle  
Casey Crow

## FLO GAMBLIN JOHNSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Jacquelyn Cook

## HAROLD MCAVOY SCHOLARSHIP

Westly Kim

## HARRY AND JULIA LEMING MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Carmen Stenger  
Jorie Goskusky  
Breana Arends  
Chelsey Agnoletti  
Kaylee Clark  
Lindsey Semonski  
Tonia Shofner

## HELEN TURLY CARLTON SCHOLARSHIP

Jorie Goskusky

## HELEN WALDO SCHOLARSHIP

Breana Arends

## JACKIE ADAMS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Rebekah Pierce

## JAMES P. JESCHKE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Tobias Pacheco

## JAN MCLAUGHLIN SCHOLARSHIP

Mackenzie Klein  
Sabrina Oxarart

## JOYCE AND MICHAEL CASHMAN SCHOLARSHIP

Kayla Holtke

## MARGERIE MIEVILLE SCHOLARSHIP

Simeon Johnson

## MARIE FORTINO SCHOLARSHIP

Nichole Graves

## MARLENE MOSSBERGER WOODFILL SCHOLARSHIP

Serena Schmechel

## MARY JANE DOWLING SCHOLARSHIP

Shelly Scott-Scholl

## MARYLYNN ALLEN SCHOLARSHIP

Kaylie Newell

## METHODIST COLLEGE 2ND DEGREE SCHOLARSHIP

Cassie Whitsitt  
Ashley Trail  
Heather Achuff  
Mohamad Cheaito

## METHODIST COLLEGE FRESHMAN SCHOLARSHIP

Amy Fosdick  
Kayla Holtke  
Robert Zummallen  
Sonya Closen

## METHODIST COLLEGE SOPHOMORE SCHOLARSHIP

Shelly Owens  
Tamara Gibbs  
Chelsea Brown  
Michelle Keinath

## MILLARD J. KOCH SCHOLARSHIP

Kendra King

## MORIS ADLAND SCHOLARSHIP

Tobias Pacheco

## NELDA CARROLL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Jorie Goskusky

## ODESSA CALDER SCHOLARSHIP

Simeon Johnson

## RON TAYLOR MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Shawnte McCullough

## ROSE EMMA AND LESTER ACKERMAN SCHOLARSHIP

Kaylee Clark

## ROSE MARIE MURDOCK SCHOLARSHIP

Kendra King

## VELMA KNEER LARSON SCHOLARSHIP

Donna Czulno

## WENDY MICHELLE CURTIS UNDERWOOD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Michelle Keinath

## WILLIAM E JOHNSTON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Ashlee Heid

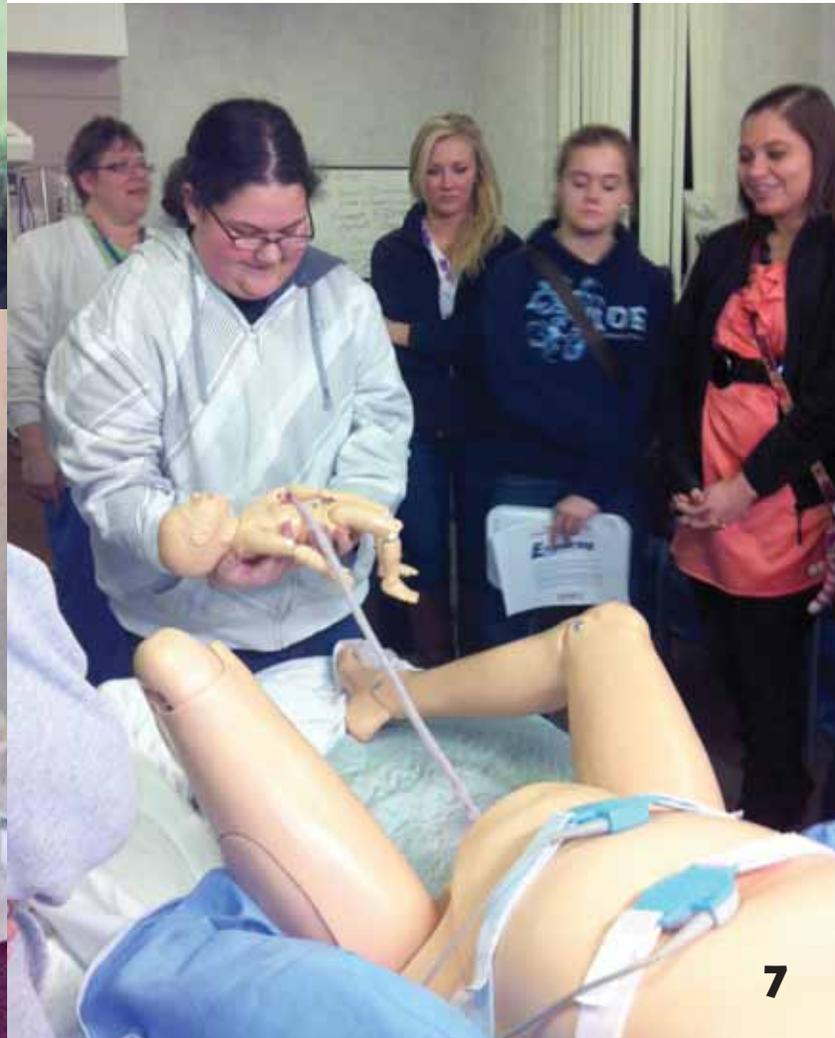
If you would like to make a tax deductible contribution to our scholarship funds or create a new scholarship, please contact Jessica Dillon at **309-671-5185** or mail your gift to: **Methodist College**  
415 St. Mark Ct., Peoria, IL 61603

## The Methodist College Exploring Program



**Methodist College, in partnership with Learning for Life, offers the Exploring Program. This program provides an opportunity for young people to explore many different areas of health care through hands-on activities, lectures and exposure to the College itself.**

The purpose of the program is to help young people identify fields of study that appeal to them. On February 12, nine students from area schools from Peoria District 150 to Canton and Eureka visited the Methodist College Learning Resource Center (LRC), located at UnityPoint Health - Methodist. The session focused on Obstetrics and Pediatrics. LRC coordinator, Shelley Riney showcased our newest mannequin, "Noelle." Noelle is a 3G advanced mannequin who simulates giving birth as well as other real-life experiences. Students were able to watch Noelle give birth, listen to breathing and belly gurgles on the newborn, dress in surgical gowns to prep for a c-section and much more! It was truly a hands-on experience that left them excited about Methodist College and a future profession in nursing!



## It's Official!

We are pleased to report that the Institutional Actions Council of the Higher Learning Commission has moved to continue the accreditation of Methodist College-UnityPoint Health with the next reaffirmation of Accreditation in 2022-23. We greatly appreciate all of the support and participation through this journey.

