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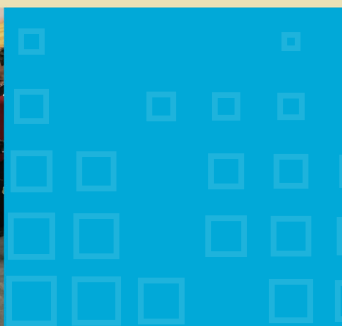
Spring/Summer 2019

MethodistCOL.edu

Alumni
Reunion

History Presented at
Local Museum

Innovative
Education



Advancing Minds.
ADVANCING HEALTHCARE.

7600 N. Academic Dr. | Peoria, IL 61615



Methodist College
UnityPoint Health



Chancellor's Letter

Greetings Methodist Alumni,

I have just completed my first academic year as chancellor and it has been a fabulous experience. The best part, as always, is graduation. We awarded 69 diplomas in December 2018 and another 75 in May. Of course most of those diplomas were bachelor of science degrees in nursing. We also awarded bachelor's degrees in health sciences and several master's degrees in nursing. Equally exciting was this May, we graduated our first four students earning certificates as medical assistants. All four students took the certification exam from the National Healthcare Association and scored 89% or above. Well above the national average of 75%. Our excellent scores are a credit to the rigor and excellent preparation in our program. We owe extensive credit to our Medical Assistant program coordinator and instructor Courtney Gehrig!

We purchased some great new education equipment this academic year, funded by the Methodist I Proctor Foundation and a U.S. Health Resources & Services Administration grant. The first is an Anatomage table. They describe this as a "comprehensive 3D visualization tool with intuitive hands-on interface to allow for a quick analysis and examination, for medical education, patient diagnosis, and dynamic presentations." It "features the most accurate human anatomy and patient data of any technology available. Powerful hardware and software makes it the preferred solution for medical applications." Words alone cannot describe how awesome this teaching tool really is for our students. Type in "Anatomage" in a YouTube search field and check out videos of this device.

The second outstanding piece of equipment we purchased is our new birthing simulator made by Gaumard®. The "mother" is named Victoria and the "baby" is named Tori. They describe it as providing experiences "from early pregnancy complications, high-risk deliveries, and postpartum emergencies to non-gravid scenarios for general nursing care. Victoria simulates a full range of obstetrical events to facilitate teamwork and deepen critical thinking skills in learners of all levels. More than a childbirth simulator, Victoria is a complete simulation solution developed from decades of obstetrical experience. It is a comprehensive package of tools and support designed to help improve patient safety in women's health through education and training." This simulator is so real when you are holding the baby, it's hard to remember it runs on a rechargeable batteries, not milk! Victoria can give birth a myriad times per day and never gets tired. And we can "perform" a C-section on her, too.

On the academic side of the house, we have repackaged our health sciences major and named the degree "Bachelor of Science in Health Management." The new name is more descriptive of the program focus and will better help us attract new students. We have also been approved to offer our pre-licensure, graduate entry master of science degree in nursing. This new MSN program will start the first cohort this fall. Twenty-one months later, I will award diplomas to the first graduating class. The fall 2019 cohort is already full and we are confident this high interest will continue indefinitely!

Best Regards,

James R. Dire, Ph.D.
Chancellor

Dean of Arts & Sciences Announced



In April, Methodist College announced that Dr. Eileen Setti was selected as the Dean of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Setti has worked in higher education for 10 years and has over 20 years of experience in the nonprofit sector. She recently served as the Interim Dean of Arts and Sciences, while also serving as the Chair of Continuing Education at Methodist College. Dr. Setti has been instrumental at Methodist College in the development of new programs and opportunities for students.

Dr. Setti earned a doctorate from Northern Illinois University, a master's degree from Loyola University of Chicago, and a bachelor's degree from Eureka College. Her research has focused on nonprofit organization capacity building. Her extensive nonprofit experience includes program development, training of executive leadership teams, strategic planning, and organizing new nonprofit agencies. She discovered her passion for teaching and working with students when she was asked to teach a course in nonprofit management.

Dr. Setti lives in Peoria with her husband and two daughters.

Alumni Board Nominations

The Methodist Alumni Association is seeking nominations and applications for those interested in serving on the Alumni Board. The Alumni Board is a great way to become involved with your alma mater and give back to the Methodist community. The Alumni Association hosts events for current students and alumni. Join the fun, meet other alumni, and stay connected.

The board meets monthly, typically the second Wednesday at 5:00 p.m., at Methodist College in Peoria. For more information, please email msmith@methodistcol.edu or call 309-672-5598. If you know any board members, listed below, reach out and ask about their time on the alumni association board!

Methodist Alumni Association Board

Abby Ault '11
President

Shelley Riney '80
Vice President of Events

Deb Eagan '13
Vice President of
Advancement

Jodi Huffman-Frazee '14, MSN '18
Vice President of Membership

At-Large Board Members:

John Cation '16

Kayla Holtke '16

Lisa Preston '94

Stephanie Whitman '15

Wilma Christiansen '57

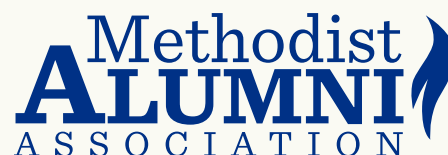
Bobby Lucia '15

Nikita Thomas '09

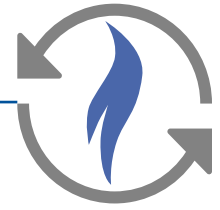
Angela Erickson '15

Jonathan Meyer '16

Jennifer Smith '67



Alumni Reunion Recap



Class of 1968 Celebration and Alumni Awards

In September 2018, the Methodist Alumni Association hosted the annual Reunion Luncheon. While the reunion was moved to the fall last year, attendance remained strong at almost 100 attendees. The reunion recognizes those who received alumni awards and a celebration of the 50 year class.

What a celebration it was for the 50 year class! Members of the class of 1968 traveled across the country to see friends and reminisce about their days at Methodist. Twenty-nine alumna from the class were able to attend. For months leading up to the reunion a small group of local alumni from the class planned their celebration. **Claudia Light Geist** led the class in sharing memories and the audience couldn't stop laughing! Each member of the class of 1968 in attendance was presented with a rose and a charm. The highlight of the celebration was the class singing the school song and a song to remember their studies. For our more recent graduates, Methodist had a choir and band at one time! The 50 year class is pictured below.

The alumni awards recognition also takes place at the reunion. Alumni awards are presented to alums who are nominated and demonstrate the values of the Alumni Association.

The **Rising Star Alumnus Award** was presented to **Alaina Hamilton, Class of 2010**. Alaina serves as faculty at Methodist College and has been an instrumental part of the nursing program. In 2017, Alaina was honored among Illinois' 40 under 40 Emerging Nurse Leaders by the Illinois Nurses Foundation. In addition to her time at the college, Alaina has earned a master's from Walden University and is pursuing a doctoral program at Allen College. She began her career as an oncology nurse at UnityPoint Health - Methodist. After five years she then began her teaching career at Methodist College, where she is making an impact on future nurses everyday. She demonstrates strong leadership among her peers. Most importantly, she encourages students and teaches them how to meet the demand of today's healthcare needs. She continually demonstrates flexibility, commitment, and dedication to nursing education and students.

Barbara Spurgeon, Class of 1955, was presented with the **Methodist Alumni Association Service Award**. Barbara volunteered with Methodist Hospital for over 30 years, acquiring almost 18,000 hours of volunteer service. She is passionate about Methodist and her service to the hospital. She has also been involved with the Methodist I Proctor Foundation for as

long as her volunteer service. She is a lifetime member of the Foundation's Presidents Society and is an emeritus board member. In 2011, Methodist honored Barbara with the first ever

Community ambassador Award. You'll find something Barbara has been a part of everywhere you go in the Methodist Community - from her support of the college and hospital; the patients who knew her; and the volunteers, nurses, and doctors who worked with her, Barbara has been an important part of the Methodist community. Then Regional CEO Debbie Simon sent a note to Barbara congratulating her on the award to be read at the reunion. It's been said, "everyone knows Barbara."

The **Distinguished Alumni Award** was presented to **Jamie Harwood, Class of 1997**. He currently serves as the Coroner of Peoria County. He is certified as a Forensic Nurse and is enrolled in a Nursing Administration master's degree program. He has spent most of his career in Emergency Medicine and Trauma and Critical Care. Jamie has been involved with the Alumni Association, leading roundtable discussions for students. In the community he is involved in the Peoria Recovery Project, Whitney's Walk for Life, serving as honorary chair for the 2019 walk. As a living kidney donor, he has been recognized as a Life Saving Leader with Gift of Hope and also sits on the Gift of Hope Coroner Advisory Board of Illinois. Jamie is a dynamic leader in the Peoria community.



The Alumni Association is accepting nominations for this year's alumni awards. The awards will be presented at the reunion on September 28, 2019. Visit MethodistCOL.edu/alumni to find out how to nominate an alum.

Scholarship Awards Breakfast

The annual Scholarship Awards Breakfast was held in April to recognize student scholarship recipients and donors to those scholarships. The event is hosted by Methodist College, in conjunction with the UnityPoint Health Methodist I Proctor Foundation. This year's event recognized 140 students who received a scholarship through the Foundation or a grant. The breakfast is a celebration of student achievements and an opportunity for students to meet the donors to their scholarships. They are also building relationships that make a difference inside and outside the classroom.



Over 220 individuals attended the breakfast to support the achievements of Methodist College students. Methodist College Chancellor, Dr. James Dire, presented a college update regarding new programs and initiatives. At this year's event the Foundation announced the creation of three new scholarships! It was a morning of celebration and excitement as we look forward to what will be achieved in the coming year!



Many of the Methodist College scholarships are created by or named for our alumni, such as the JoAnn Landis Semelroth Memorial Scholarship named for a 1948 graduate and the Wendy Michelle Curtis Underwood Memorial Scholarship named for a Class of 1995 alumna. A number of other scholarships were created by alumni who wish to help students pursuing their dream to have a career in healthcare. Receiving a scholarship can make a difference in the student's ability to attend or complete a program. We thank all of our alumni donors, as through your generosity students are realizing their dreams to become healthcare professionals.

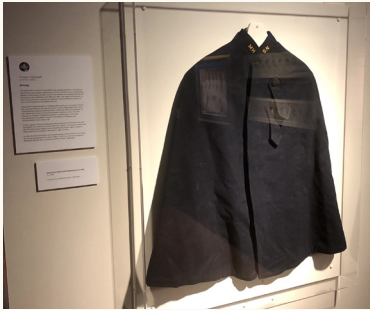
A special thank you to the Scholarship Awards Breakfast sponsors CEFCU, Jeanine Spain of UnityPoint Health, and Rob Quin of UnityPoint Health. Sponsorship of the event allows students to attend at no cost and raises funds for scholarships. Congratulations to all the scholarship recipients!

At the event an Outstanding Community Partner is recognized. Community partners are nominated and selected based on the positive impact to students and the community. This year Heartis Village Peoria was selected. The partnership with Heartis Village Peoria began with an internship opportunity for gerontology students. The partnership has expanded to include service learning projects for students, art classes, and volunteer projects. Heartis Village residents even collect items for Ollie's Pantry, the food pantry located on campus for students. The projects developed for Methodist College students and Heartis Village residents are rewarding to both groups, as they develop friendships that continue beyond the classroom.



History Presented at Local Museum

Methodist College was honored to provide a public presentation at the Peoria Riverfront Museum on the history of nursing and Methodist College. Shelley Riney '80, Methodist College nursing faculty gave the presentation "Healing, Teaching, Caring" on March 31, which focused on the exciting history of nursing from Florence Nightingale to today. She also explored the history of Methodist College and its rich heritage in Central Illinois.



The history of Methodist began when the deaconesses of the Methodist Episcopal Church founded a home, hospital and training school for nurses in Peoria.

During the presentation Riney was joined by Methodist College nursing faculty Lisa Gillespie '94, and Lisa Pritzker '14, who modeled historical uniforms from the colleges rich past.



The presentation was part of the Peoria Riverfront Museum's "10 Medical Inventions that Changed the World," which tells the stories of pioneering medicine. The exhibit

featured several artifacts from Methodist College including a uniform cape, a diploma from the Training School for Nurses, and photographs of nursing classes.

Innovative Education Open House

Methodist College recently added more state-of-the-art tools and technology that will be used in the education of future healthcare and human services professionals. On May 23, Methodist College hosted an open house to showcase the new technology. Among attendees were Methodist College staff, faculty, board members, alumni, and local community members.

The open house featured the new lifelike childbirth simulator that is part of the college's simulation education program. The simulator also features newborn manikins and a full-term baby simulator that provides participants with realistic visual and tactile experiences. The Anatomage table was also on display; see photo at right. The table is a fully segmented real human 3D anatomy system. The Mobile Outreach Learning Lab for Integrative Education or MOLLIE vehicle was also available for tours. The former mobile mammography unit was transformed into a vehicle that will provide students an opportunity to provide health and social wellness education and assessments in the community. Funding for each of these was provided through various grants, including grants from the UnityPoint Health Methodist I Proctor Foundation, Human Resources & Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the Telligen Foundation.



Those in attendance were impressed with the lifelike simulator, the capabilities of the Anatomage table, and the opportunities the MOLLIE vehicle provides to the community. Methodist College is truly advancing minds and advancing healthcare everyday!



Congratulations Graduates!

Methodist College celebrated graduates on Saturday, December 15, 2018. The fall 2018 class include 66 baccalaureate graduates and four master's degree graduates. The commencement speaker was Keith Knepp, M.D., C.P.E., President and CEO of UnityPoint Health-Central Illinois. We welcome these new graduates to the Methodist Alumni Association!

RN to BSN Program Revisions

A revision in the curriculum of the online Registered Nurse (RN) to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree at Methodist College will allow students in the program to complete the degree in less time. The revision reduces the required credit hours from 43 to 30. The new program, known as the RN to BSN program, is designed with 30 credits of nursing courses that expand the nurse's knowledge in several areas, including leadership, evidence-based practice, and population health. The degree is designed to provide the maximum flexibility for students while at the same time, maintaining the requirements for students to earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree.

The RN to BSN program allows licensed registered nurses, who earned their nursing education credentials through an accredited diploma program or associate degree program, to take courses to earn a bachelor's degree in nursing. Students will be able to transfer up to 90 of the total 120 credits required to complete a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. Student who have fewer than 90 credits to transfer may need to take additional elective courses in order to fulfill the 120 credit requirement.

The revised program offers many advantages: students can complete the program in as little as three semesters depending on whether they are a part-time or full-time student, they are able to plan their study time around their work schedules, there are no on-campus requirements, and they can plan their practicum experiences to match their work schedules and professional goals. In addition, Methodist College offers a pathway for the registered nurse to bridge to the Master of Science in Nursing program. More information is available at www.MethodistCOL.edu/rn-bsn.



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METHODIST ALUMNI REUNION

SEPTEMBER 28, 2019

**METHODIST COLLEGE
7600 N. ACADEMIC DR.
PEORIA, IL 61615**



FORMAL INVITATION TO FOLLOW

For questions contact Meghan Smith
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msmith@methodistCOL.edu