MISSION

In the Spirit of Christ and the example of Francis of Assisi, the Mission of Saint Anthony College of Nursing, a private Catholic college, is to provide quality nursing and health care education in an environment that encourages open inquiry, lifelong learning and to serve all persons with the greatest care and love.

VISION

Leading in Nursing and Health Care Education, Practice and Service.

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 of conduct and ethical standards in education and practice.

TEAMWORK: Collaborate with each other, with members of the health care 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 care discipline in service to others utilizing evidence-based practices.
Greetings,

My work with Saint Anthony College of Nursing began over 15 years ago. I serve as the Executive Director of the Winnebago County Housing Authority, and the College president had approached me with the progressive idea of a course for student nurses that would take place at our sites for senior and disabled residents. The president was looking to provide a real-world opportunity for students to learn the needs and challenges of health care for low-income persons. Residents, fearful to losing their homes and being transferred to long-term care facilities, were afraid to disclose to anyone of their health problems, which only led to illness, age and disability-related problems quietly growing. They were concerned their health would get to the point when it was necessary for the residents to move to long-term nursing and supportive care and lose their ability to live independently in their home.

The work of the student nurses was dramatically impactful. By meeting with residents on a regular basis, identifying with them by name, educating and testing them for potential health issues that could be solved through early intervention – the students made an immediate difference. And yet we learned there was more. Through the students meeting with the residents on a regular basis, sharing stories, showing care and demonstrating concern, it was through this that the students earned the trust of the residents.

It is important to share this story as it is an actual example of how the College meets the needs of the community through partnerships that both make a difference in lives and in saving lives. It fostered an environment that meets the needs of training, of student support from the College and support with each other. It found a need and met it. It connected the science of nursing with the concern and care of lives.

The Saint Anthony College of Nursing Board is truly blessed to serve, support and be part of this. It’s part of the valuable history that the College team and its students have created for our communities; a history and a mission of the College leadership, staff and students that serve with the greatest care and love.

Alan Zais, MPA
Board Chair, Saint Anthony College of Nursing
Dear Friends,

I am very happy to share with you information about another wonderful year at Saint Anthony College of Nursing (SACN)! It is hard to believe that the 2022-2023 academic year is now over. During this past academic year, we have worked hard to continue the fine tradition of nursing education at SACN. Additionally, with my upcoming retirement, we are all excited about the arrival of our new President, Dr. Charlene Aaron. I will be passing the baton to Dr. Aaron just prior to the new 2023-2024 academic year.

Enrollment, student readiness and the continued shift to online teaching and learning have all been challenges in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, we have continued to meet these challenges head-on and have learned a great deal during this period of time.

A fresh marketing campaign has spurred enrollment and we are excited about the support of the OSF organization. As many of you know, nurses in record numbers have left the profession, both due to retirements in an aging workforce and subsequent to the pandemic. Consequently, health care needs well-educated and prepared nurses. As a result of this workforce need, the OSF organization now fully funds nursing education at SACN for employees. This creates a tremendous opportunity for SACN to support the OSF HealthCare System.

In February 2023, SACN hosted a visit from the Commission of Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) representatives to assess compliance in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree programs. CCNE is the key nursing accreditation organization in higher education, and faculty, staff and college leadership prepared for this visit over many months. The results were very positive. The CCNE visitors found no compliance concerns, with formal notification anticipated this upcoming fall. The positive visit is the result of much hard work by all of us at SACN and the great outcomes that we have seen in our academic programs.

Another major accomplishment this past year was the development of an accelerated BSN degree. This accelerated program provides an opportunity for an individual holding a Bachelor of Arts (BA) or Bachelor of Science (BS) degree to complete the BSN in one academic year. The goal of this program is to not only provide an opportunity for an individual to seek an alternative career in a short, intense period of time, but also to support current health care workforce needs. This accelerated BSN program launched in the fall semester on September 11. Faculty and leadership at both SACN and Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing in Peoria have collaborated to develop this program.

Finally, the undergraduate NCLEX pass rates, most recently 100% in the second quarter of the 2023 calendar year, and advanced practice certification pass rates, which have consistently stayed at 100%, continue to be above national standards! This is an awesome accomplishment for all faculty and staff!

In all, it has been a fabulous year at Saint Anthony College of Nursing! We are passionate about nursing education and look forward to our future!

Sincerely,

Shannon K. Lizer PhD, FNP-BC, FAANP
President, Saint Anthony Medical Center College of Nursing
Saint Anthony College of Nursing’s graduate program had another successful year! We are thankful for many things, including the pleasure to work with great students, completion of award-winning graduate student projects, 100% pass rate for family nurse practitioner and acute care nurse practitioner board certification and many faculty accomplishments.

Additionally, 100% of our graduates were employed within the first year after graduation. Many students have taken positions locally in primary care and specialty positions, including a graduate who accepted a position at OSF HealthCare Saint Anthony Medical Center. Two other graduates joined SACN as full-time faculty members. We are proud of each and every one!

Along with celebrating our successes, the department is bidding farewell to two individuals who have been key to the success of our programs. Dr. Shannon Lizer, acting interim President and former Dean, Graduate Affairs and Research, is retiring after joining the college in 2010. Throughout her time, the graduate program has flourished with increased enrollment, addition of an acute care nurse practitioner program and the addition of a very successful Doctor of Nursing Practice Program with more than 50 students enrolled. After 12 years with the college, Dr. Andrea Doughty also retired. In conjunction with Dr. Lizer, Dr. Doughty worked tirelessly with students and faculty to develop the program in the areas of scholarship and research. Through her efforts, the graduate students have completed award-winning projects and have presented at local, regional, national and international conferences.

We have been blessed with new faculty as well! Ryan Mullen, D. Be, joined the graduate program as an assistant professor. He currently teaches ethics for the graduate and undergraduate programs at Saint Anthony College of Nursing. We are excited to have him join us.

This has also been a successful year for faculty with regard to scholarship. Several faculty presented at regional and national conferences, and others published on a variety of topics. This past year Elizabeth Andekian, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, ACNS-BC, presented her doctoral work promoting wellness and managing stress in farmers at both the Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health Conference and the Wisconsin League for Nursing Annual Fall Conference. Matthew Dalstrom, PhD, MPH, participated in a Round Table Presentation at the 2022 AAA Annual Meeting on the topic of “Unsettling Interdisciplinary Contexts in Healthcare.” Fiona Okoroti, DNP, APRN, AGPCNP-BC, PMHNP-BC, published an article “3Ds” (delirium, dementia and depression) in the Journal of American Medical Directors Association. Lastly, Becky Parizek, PhD, RN, CNL, presented her research “Health Literacy and Underage Alcohol Use” at Scholarship Day at Saint Anthony College of Nursing and her work with developing a research residency for faculty at the OSF Annual Research Symposium this spring.

This has been a wonderful and productive year for the graduate department. I am thankful for the opportunity to serve Saint Anthony College of Nursing.

Respectfully,

Michelle Brady, DNP, FNP-BC
Dean, Graduate Affairs & Research
Thank you for taking the time to read about what is happening at Saint Anthony College of Nursing.

In March 2023, we received our annual NCLEX report from the state of Illinois. While we did not have a 100% pass rate like last year, we were still way above the state and national pass rates. SACN achieved a 92% first-time pass rate, while the state pass rate was 77% and national pass rate was 80%. Our first quarter 2023 results were a 100% first-time pass rate.

On April 1, 2023, the Next Generation NCLEX was implemented. This “new” NCLEX-RN® text plan has been in development for several years and has new test question styles that assess the readiness of our graduates to practice. While foundation continues to be multiple choice and select all that apply questions, you may hear the terms “bow-tie” and “cloze.” We have been preparing our students for this new testing and teaching the clinical judgement model for several semesters.

Our first cohort from OSF HealthCare Little Company of Mary Medical Center completed their coursework and graduated in December 2022. With the move to primarily online RN to BSN programs, we will teach-out our second cohort from OSF Little Company of Mary in December 2023, and all cohorts admitted January 2023 and forward will be online with a virtual option for the first class session of each course.

Last year, we brought back our Senior Objective Structure Clinical Evaluation (OSCE) for our graduating seniors, and this year we made a significant revision to the process. The Senior OSCE is now a “skills fair,” which allows our graduating seniors to review key skills and be evaluated by faculty. Since students often verbalize that they do not get to practice technical skills the second semester of their senior year, this provides an opportunity to refresh those skills.

Last summer and fall, SACN and Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing worked collaboratively to develop an accelerated BA/BS to BSN curriculum. This program was presented to the Illinois Board of Nursing at its January 2023 meeting and approved. Our goal is to have a cohort of about 10 students to start this program. It will be very intensive, but at the end of a calendar year the students will have their BSN. Watch your social media and share our posts about this exciting new program.

We are thankful for the leadership of Dr. Shannon Lizer over the past year and a half as interim president and welcome Dr. Charlene Aaron to the role of president for both Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing and Saint Anthony College of Nursing.

Blessings,

Beth Carson, EdD, RN, CNE
Dean Undergraduate Affairs
2021-2024
STRATEGIC PLAN

Student Experience
Offer an impactful, enriching academic environment that uniquely shapes each student’s intellectual experience.
• Sustain the College mission, Catholic identity and faith-based culture.
• Identify student definition of what constitutes an impactful, enriching academic environment.
• Adopt a student-centered philosophy and practices institution-wide.
• Provide curricular and co-curricular activities to benefit students in a multicultural environment.

Instructional Excellence
Foster a culture of inquiry and engaged learning led by faculty who are experts in their field and recognized for their teaching excellence.
• Provide Best Practices in Teaching/Learning.
• Expand faculty competencies in teaching.
• Develop and expand faculty expertise in assessment and evaluation.
• Recruit and retain high quality faculty.

Scholarship of Teaching and Learning
Foster a culture of faculty development with particular emphasis on active scholarship of teaching, learning, use of teaching technologies, evaluation and one’s research trajectory.
• Develop faculty role and competence in scholarship.
• Develop faculty engagement in the “scholarship of teaching.”
• Operationalize a robust Research and Scholarship Symposium.
• Operationalize a robust Research Residency.

Development of Student Pipeline to and at Saint Anthony College of Nursing
Develop recruitment, retention and support systems that result in exceeding target enrollment and graduation rates.
• Develop a targeted recruitment and financial aid strategy that drives student application rates and yield.
• Expand support and retention strategies/services for students.
• Examine the concept of personalized or individualized education.
• Become competitive from a cost-benefit perspective when compared to regional colleges.

Campus Vitality
Adopt a holistic approach to campus well-being, quality improvement and operational excellence.
• Develop a master facility assessment and development plan that considers academic, technologic, and human resources and needs.
• Assess and employ, change or adopt new strategies to foster more efficient and effective business practices.
• Focus on student, faculty and staff physical, mental and intellectual health and well-being.
• Engage in a comprehensive friend raising and fundraising campaign.
Shannon K. Lizer, PhD, FNP-BC, FAANP, retires

Shannon K. Lizer, PhD, FNP-BC, FAANP, retired this summer after serving 18 months as interim president for the colleges of nursing. Dr. Lizer had planned to retire in May 2022 from her position as dean of graduate affairs for Saint Anthony College of Nursing when she was called to serve as interim president after the retirement of former president Sandie Soldwisch, PhD, ANP-BC, RN.

Looking back at highlights of her time as interim president, Dr. Lizer said, “Bringing the colleges together to maximize the talent and resources between the two was exciting. Participating in the search for the new president was also a great experience. It was a busy time, but it was very rewarding.”

Dr. Lizer began her career in academia at University of Illinois Chicago (UIC) College of Medicine in 1996. In 2002, she also began teaching at UIC College of Nursing. She joined Saint Anthony College of Nursing in 2010 as dean of graduate affairs and research.

She earned her BSN from Northern Illinois University, MSN from UIC, and a post-MSN in family nurse practitioner and doctorate from Rush University. She practiced as an FNP, providing health care to veterans and the underserved until December 2021. She was inducted as a Fellow in the American Association of Nurse Practitioners in 2016.

“I still hear from students I’ve had not just at OSF but also from UIC,” Dr. Lizer said. “It makes me feel really good to know I’ve helped along the way, and I would hope that all of our graduates would pay that forward.”

Dr. Lizer is proud that both her daughters, Jessica and Chelsey, are advanced practice nurses. Chelsey earned her doctorate from Saint Anthony College of Nursing in 2022.

In retirement, Dr. Lizer plans to spend time with her family and horses and to volunteer with the CASA program (Court Appointed Special Advocates).
Charlene Aaron, PhD, RN, named new president

Charlene Aaron, PhD, RN, is the new president leading Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing and Saint Anthony College of Nursing.

“I am excited to lead the two colleges because it’s an opportunity and challenge to grow more nurses in the central and western regions of the state,” Dr. Aaron said. “I have some innovative ideas on how to encourage prospective students to seek a nursing degree and reach goals they never thought were possible.”

Dr. Aaron most recently served as chancellor and professor at HSHS St. John’s College of Nursing in Springfield and previously worked as an assistant professor at the Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University. She has served in both clinical and educational capacities throughout her career.

She believes the Mission sets the colleges apart from other nursing schools. “We live the Mission by the way we welcome our students and interact with our fellow Mission Partners. That sets an example for our students that facilitates learning to care for others with the greatest care and love,” she said.

Among challenges facing nursing education, Dr. Aaron said, “The cost of a nursing education is a barrier for some. Innovative strategies are needed to find funding for people who are interested in the very rewarding career of nursing.”

She added, “There will soon be a silver tsunami as many experienced registered nurses will be retiring. This impacts quality of care. I see simulation experiences for students and practicing nurses improving quality/safety measures, and organizational assistance with continuing education as key to meeting these challenges.”

As chair of the Illinois Association of Colleges of Nursing, Dr. Aaron said, “It’s our responsibility to ensure we are providing nursing education in a high quality, wholistic, cultural, and equitable manner to all students aspiring to be registered nurses, contributing to the health of their communities.”
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT
Nicole Daugherty, MSN, RN, CMSRN

When a weak ankle dashed her childhood dream of becoming a ballerina, Nicole Daugherty, MSN, RN, CMSRN, decided to become a nurse and set her sights on attending Saint Anthony College of Nursing.

“It was just a feeling that this is what I was supposed to do with my life,” said the Belvidere native.

After applying only to the college, she was wait-listed but got called a week before classes started. “It just had a magical way of working out. I always say maybe this was God’s way of telling me this is where I needed to be,” Nicole said.

She went on to earn her BSN in 2006 and her MSN in 2019 from the college. “As an undergrad, it was very nerve-racking because I was so young and had so much to learn, but the teachers gave us so much support,” she said.

Nicole’s first job out of college was at OSF HealthCare Saint Anthony Medical Center on the Medical-Surgical Unit. “My plan was to be there six months and then become a mom-baby and delivery nurse,” she said.

Her plans changed when the unit began to transition, earning stroke accreditation and focusing more on neurological care. “I really enjoyed that process, and it kind of helped build me as a person. I found my calling,” she said.

She worked on the unit for 10 years and then became a full-time charge nurse. “I liked the leadership and being able to support the staff,” she said.

A faculty member who was also an instructor on the unit convinced Nicole to go back for her MSN. Earning that degree while working full-time and raising a family was challenging but easier than she had anticipated, even with an unexpected health issue.

During her first semester, she learned she had a vestibular tumor causing hearing loss in one ear. “Everybody in the graduate program was so supportive. Without that support, I don’t think I would have made it through,” she said.

After working both as a nurse and as an adjunct instructor for a year, Nicole left her nursing job to teach full time at the college.

She particularly enjoys teaching a course on managing complex cases. “They come in scared and feeling like they don’t know if they’re ready for this course, but by the end they have that self-satisfaction of feeling like a nurse. I really like that aspect.”

Nicole believes the faculty helps set the college apart from other nursing schools. “That supportive system is what I’ve grown to love and what draws me to be here,” she said.

She also credits family support with helping her succeed. “I truly wouldn’t be able to do what I do without my family,” she said. “I love my schedule because it allows me to take my son to baseball and be there as my daughter starts volleyball this fall. We also like camping and fishing and being outdoors.”
Max Button, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, was promoted to the rank of assistant professor this fall. A board-certified family nurse practitioner specializing in functional medicine, Dr. Button earned his BSN in 2010, his MSN in 2014 and his DNP in 2019 from Saint Anthony College of Nursing. He joined the college faculty in 2020 and is now coordinating and teaching pathopharmacology and community health nursing courses.

Dr. Button left his orthopedic specialty practice late last year and joined a functional medicine practice. He is currently training with the Institute for Functional Medicine. He’s a former regional chairman for the Illinois Society for Advanced Practice Nursing and presented at the group’s annual Midwest conference this fall, as well as at the annual OSF HealthCare pharmacology update on “Functional Medicine’s Approach to Diagnosis and Treatment of Subclinical Hypothyroidism.”

Dr. Button also coordinated several days of clinical rotations for the college’s graduate students this summer in which he and other faculty supervised nurse practitioner students performing school and sports physicals for student athletes at Boone County Health Department and at two high schools. He also coordinated a Farm Safety Day event in August at Stateline Farm Rescue in Orangeville for 45 undergraduate students.

Rebecca Myers, DNP, RN-BC, CNE, joined the faculty at Saint Anthony College of Nursing as an assistant professor in August 2022 and moved to full-time status in January.

An alumna of the college, Dr. Myers earned her BSN in 2004, her MSN in 2016 and her DNP in 2022. She teaches fundamentals of nursing in the undergraduate program. Dr. Myers also works as a charge nurse at Mercy Health in Rockford.

“What I love about teaching at Saint Anthony College of Nursing is that it’s a small school, and everyone works closely together for student success,” Dr. Myers said. “We get to know our students well and can work with them to facilitate their learning and overcome barriers they may have to their learning and success.

“I am very excited to be working on the upcoming Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing program,” she said. “It is going to be a great opportunity to work with students from diverse backgrounds, educational and work experiences to help them reach their goal of becoming a nurse. The faculty and staff have all been very welcoming and have made me feel like part of the team.”

Ryan Mullen, D.Be, has joined the faculty at Saint Anthony College of Nursing as an assistant professor, teaching ethics for both the graduate and undergraduate programs.

Dr. Mullen earned his doctorate in bioethics from Loyola University and also holds a master’s in philosophy and bachelor’s in international business management. He previously worked as a patient experience coach/ethics fellow at OSF HealthCare Saint Anthony Medical Center from 2017-19. Dr. Mullen is also involved with the Strategic Planning Campus Vitality Committee at the college and serves as an adjunct assistant professor of ethics at the University of Illinois College of Medicine Rockford.

“I’m thrilled to be back at OSF,” Dr. Mullen said. “I deeply appreciated my opportunity to serve at OSF HealthCare in the past and look forward to a bright future in ethics at the Saint Anthony College of Nursing. There is a wonderful community amongst the faculty at the college, and I’m honored to serve alongside them. This is a great opportunity to lay a foundation of ethical support and knowledge for our nursing students. I also look forward to serving as an ethical resource for the college and my peer faculty members.”

Karen Robertson, MSN, MBA, RN, joined the undergraduate faculty as an assistant professor in July 2022.
As the son of two nurses, William “Leroy” Addoh-Kondi, BSN, had an early glimpse into the profession and gravitated toward it naturally.

“I knew I wanted to help people, and I felt like nursing was the best way to do that. Seeing examples of the satisfaction and the hard work it entails drew me to the profession,” said Leroy, who was born in Africa but grew up in Sycamore and Belvidere.

After earning his degree from Saint Anthony College of Nursing in May, Leroy accepted a job in the Emergency Department at OSF HealthCare Saint Anthony Medical Center where he had worked as a tech during nursing school.

“Working as a tech was really helpful because I came right out of the gate knowing how to do a lot of the things that a new nurse might struggle with,” he said.

Leroy chose to attend Saint Anthony College of Nursing because of its stellar reputation, and he credits faculty support with helping him get through college. “Of course it’s hard, but I felt like the faculty very much pushed me to do my best. If I didn’t know something, there was always someone I could go to for help,” he said.

Leroy was also grateful for the experience and confidence he gleaned participating in the college’s Designated Education Unit (DEU) in which students work a full semester in an acute care setting with an RN.

“I worked one-on-one on the cardiac floor with a nurse for 16 weeks,” he said. “That experience helped me tremendously in becoming a nurse because I was actually doing the work. The nurse was able to give me specific feedback about things I needed to work on, and by the end I was caring for two or three patients by myself. That gave me a really good representation of what nursing was going to be like.”

Between his classes, clinical simulation training and participating in the DEU, Leroy said he felt fully prepared to work in the ED after graduation. “My preceptor has said Saint Anthony students seem more prepared in the things we are able to do right out of school,” he said.

Leroy offered this advice to new nursing students: “If you aspire to become a nurse, stick with it. I can’t say it will be easy, but you won’t regret it. Saint Anthony is a great place to get the best education. You’ll come out feeling prepared for your career as a nurse and all the challenges you’re going to experience down the line.”

Noting that nursing offers flexibility to try many different fields and specialties, Leroy said, “I personally contemplated NICU or ICU or flight nursing before settling on ED. With my nursing degree, I can work in any of those fields if I ever lose my love for the action-packed emergency room.”

In the future, Leroy said he may consider going back to school to become a nurse practitioner or physician.
After being treated for migraines as a child, Alissa Bartel, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC, knew she wanted to become a nurse.

“I can specifically remember some of the nurses from when I was in the ER and how they cared for me and how they eased my anxiety as a child who was ill. That’s really when my desire to be a nurse started,” said the Rockford native.

Alissa earned her BSN at Saint Anthony College of Nursing in 2005, her MSN in 2015 and she’s currently finishing up her doctorate.

“Alissa currently works as an FNP at OSF Medical Group in Loves Park two days a week and teaches at the college graduate program three days a week. For six years she also worked as the college’s APN clinical placement coordinator.

Working with students fuels her passion to teach. “I love seeing the students’ growth from the time they start to the time they leave us. And it’s really kind of amazing how it comes full circle,” she said. "I love seeing all these students who are now my peers and who I go to for information or consults if I have a question in their speciality.”

“I have a huge passion for Saint Anthony College of Nursing,” she said. “I absolutely love that institution. They have wonderful test results, which show what a quality program it is, but they also have that small college feel. Their faculty members and their staff are so approachable. They just want to help you.”

Alissa began teaching at the college in 2016 after working for 10 years in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Rockford Memorial Hospital. While she loved that job, she always knew she’d go back for her MSN.

“I guess I just have a thirst for education and life-long learning,” she said. “Initially, I thought I’d be a midwife, but as I became a mom and wife, my priorities and where I saw myself shifted and I thought FNP might be a great place to be. Then I got word through a mailing that Saint Anthony was starting an FNP program, and it just kind of all made sense.”

Alissa said she may seek additional post-master’s certificates in other specialities to broaden her knowledge base and be able to help patients more. “I absolutely love being able to both teach this next generation of nurse practitioners and nurses and also to see patients. It gives me such a great balance,” she said.

When she’s not working or teaching, Alissa keeps busy with her husband and three children. The couple also run the nonprofit SAMs Sweet Heart Foundation, which they founded in 2017 in honor of two children they lost, Avery who was stillborn and Samuel, who passed away at 6 months from complications after heart surgery.

“Our mission is to help and support families whose children have complex medical diagnoses just like our kids did,” she said.
ATTRACTION NEW STUDENTS

Two colleges with the same objective

In the spring of 2023, the colleges of nursing leadership worked with OSF HealthCare Marketing & Communications to develop a marketing campaign to attract new students. The “Secure Your Future” campaign isn’t just about educating future nurses, it’s a step toward combating the nursing shortage to secure our future.

The campaign highlights what the colleges of nursing in Peoria and Rockford have to offer, including above national NCLEX-RN pass rates, hands-on simulation and bedside care training. It promotes the various programs, including Early Entry, BSN, MSN and DNP. Once approved, the Accelerated BSN program was added. The campaign also offered an opportunity to update the brand colors and logos for each college. Below is an email used to recruit new students. Its message is specific to Saint Anthony College of Nursing. Also, visit osfcolleges.org to see the website created for the campaign.

Get started on your path in a growing career

Are you a high school student ready for a future career path in nursing? Or are you ready to pursue your Bachelor of Science in Nursing?

Saint Anthony College of Nursing in Rockford, Illinois, graduates some of the nation’s most skilled and compassionate nurse professionals. The college is ranked No. 2 in the state of Illinois for best nursing schools by RNCareers and continually outperforms state and national NCLEX-RN pass rates.
The new Accelerated BSN program received approval to be offered at both Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing and Saint Anthony College of Nursing.

The program is designed for individuals who already have a bachelor’s degree and want to pursue a Bachelor of Science in nursing to begin a new career. This program is unique in that it is an accelerated 12-MONTH PROGRAM.

- No nursing background required to enter the program, just a bachelor’s degree and completion of nursing prerequisite courses
- It’s a one-year, intensive program
- It provides didactic, clinical and simulation educational experiences
- Be prepared to sit for the NCLEX-RN exam upon completion
Courtney Lomas, AGACNP-BC, BSN, received this year’s prestigious Sister Mary Linus Nowak Research Award for a poster she presented at the UIC Health Sciences Campus Rockford 28th annual Research Day.

“I was shocked to win the award. There were several other presenters from Saint Anthony College of Nursing that had amazing projects. We all worked so hard. I lived and breathed this project for about three years, so I was honored to be chosen for this award,” said the Rockford native, who received her doctorate from the college in May. She earned her BSN from the college in 2015.

Established in 2014, the Sister Mary Linus Nowak Research Award was created to further the application of research as a scholarly activity in the nursing profession. Any poster with a registered nurse as an author is eligible for the award as long as it has been IRB approved. Two judges scored technical aspects of the posters as well as content, scientific merit and student presentation.

Courtney Lomas, AGACNP-BC, BSN, had long enjoyed playing nurse with her stuffed animals as a child and was further inspired to become one after observing the nurses who helped care for her mother after a serious car accident.

“They held her hand, comforted her, loved her and fought for her when we couldn’t be there. From that moment on, it reinforced my calling to be a nurse,” she said. “I was going to be that comfort to every patient and family member I was blessed to care for.” Courtney’s twin sister, Kayla, also graduated with her BSN from the college in 2022.

“My favorite thing about nursing is the relationships I develop with my patients and their families. I feel very honored to be trusted to care for them,” said Courtney, who started her career as a surgical acute/pediatrics nurse and currently works in the Neuro/Trauma/Burn ICU at OSF HealthCare Saint Anthony Medical Center. “I love what I do at the bedside so much.”

The poster Courtney presented at Research Day was titled, “Pressure Ulcer Protocol in the Wake of COVID-19.” It was a project she became interested in during the pandemic when intubated patients needed to be proned (placed on their stomachs) for 16 hours a day. “We were beginning to find that most of these patients were developing pressure ulcers. I knew we had to do something to limit these ulcers,” she said.

After auditing randomly selected charts of patients who received various interventions to help limit or prevent pressure ulcers from developing, Courtney concluded that an actual flowsheet showing all the interventions needed to be implemented to chart adequately on the interventions used to prevent the ulcers.

“I really enjoyed Research Day. Seeing everyone’s projects and the time and energy they had put into them was a surreal feeling. It felt like we were closing a chapter,” she said.

In her spare time, Courtney enjoys reading and spending time with her husband, two daughters and their dogs.
The number of scholarship recipients for 2022-2023 was **65**. The dollar amount awarded was **$190,100**.

### FINANCIALS

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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>($1,146,828)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### FY 23 Expenses

- **Salaries & Benefits**: 74%
- **Other Expenses**: 26%
Our Students

SACN Enrollment, Fall 2022
Total Enrollment: 242 Students

Undergraduate Demographics

Graduate Demographics

Overall Demographics
SACN AT A GLANCE
New Student Retention 2021-22

Pass Rates (1st attempt)
NCLEX-RN Pass Rates

Graduation – Class Size by Degree
SACN Graduates

MSN/DNP Graduate Certification Pass Rates

Job Placement Within One Year
Undergraduate
Graduate

Note: Job placement rates are primarily based on alumni surveys. For 2021 alumni, reporting on 92% of undergraduates and 100% of graduates.
RESEARCH ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Faculty


Carson, B. (2023, March 15). Graduate Nursing Programs in Illinois: How to Become Nursing Faculty. [Webex webinar] Part of an ongoing series by the Illinois Nursing Workforce Center to promote college/universities that offer graduate degrees in nursing in order to increase the number of nursing faculty in the state. YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y9UcccfJsgU


Mosher, D. (2022, August 11-13). Telehealth Readiness for the Undergraduate Nursing Student. Nurse Time Nuts and Bolts of Nursing Education, Minneapolis, MN.


Graduate Students


**Undergraduate Students**


RESEARCH ACCOMPLISHMENTS (continued)


Awards or Honors

Abby Antczak was the recipient of the Stateline Nurses Network Doctoral Scholarship of $1,000.

Fiona Okoroti was nominated as the Chairperson for the ANCC Adult Gero Primary Care Content Expert Panel. This is her second three-year term, but first as the Chair.

Matt Dalstrom will be on the National Science Foundation Cultural Anthropology DDRIG Advisory Panel to review grant applications for the spring 2023 cycle.

Colleen Klein was inducted as a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing (FAAN), Washington, DC, October 29, 2022.

Grants

Dawn Mosher and her UIC partners received an additional grant through the UIC-OSF Community Health Advocacy Grant program which supports applied community health research. This grant focuses on working with OSF Little Company of Mary patient populations and providers to improve telehealth literacy and health care access. $69,680

Dawn Mosher along with Linda Chang and Dr. Sreedhar from UIC, received funding to complete their project. AI in Education – Training 21st Century Health Care Providers has been selected to receive funding through the UIC-OSF Community Health Advocacy (CHA) Program. The focus is to develop a foundational curriculum for health professions students regarding the use of Augmented Intelligence in health care. $40,667

Colleen Klein and Matt Dalstrom are co-PIs on the Medicaid Innovation Collaborative (MIC) Experience – Transforming Care through Digital Health: A Mixed Methods Analysis. Funded by the OSF HealthCare Foundation (June 2022-June 2027). $16,892

Colleen Klein and Matt Dalstrom are co-investigators on the Saint Francis Medical Center Hospital at Home. Funded by the Sister Canisia Gerlach Grant (January 2023). $9,096

Melinda Cooling, DNP, Colleen Klein, PhD, APRN, FAAN, Matt Dalstrom, PhD, MPH, Wisconsin Flam Bond, MD, Nikki Delinski, DNP, MSN, RN, & Katrina Rewerts have secured a new initiative (PCORI HSII Learning Network) where OSF will be one of 42 health care systems who will put research results into place faster in clinical care to improve patient health outcomes. This is part of the PCORI's Health Systems Implementation Initiative (HSII) (2022).

Miaake Driscoll, an assistant professor, was one of 18 recipients of the FY22 Nurse Educator Fellow by the Illinois Board of Higher Education. Each recipient is awarded $10,000 to help promote excellence in nursing education.
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