



CAPS Post-Baccalaureate Program Blessed with New Nursing Lab at Anderson Center

Monica Stoesz



Blessed to be a blessing. Bethel University was blessed by a generous donor to build a new nursing lab that the CAPS Post-Baccalaureate Nursing Program will utilize. This program began in May 2020 and shared the CAS BSN lab space for the first three cohorts. It was a challenge to share the area, being very mindful of double-booking potential. This new 5,585-square-foot lab space on the fourth floor at the Anderson Center has come to fruition just in time for increased enrollment plus additional cohorts and speaks to the nature of our God...generous and with perfect timing. He is the one who provided for this expanding program through the generosity of others and at just the right time.

The new lab space has 16 beds, ample storage cupboards and closets, a meeting room, debrief/break room, plus one complete simulation room that includes a control room and all the technology to support the high-quality learning for which Bethel University is known. The 11 manikins that the new lab acquired range greatly in abilities and price.

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CAPS Post-Bacc Lab - cont. on p. 2

Some of these manikins are utilized in the skills lab to practice techniques and cost roughly \$3,000, while the more technologically advanced one we use for scenario simulations is approximately \$20,000. Much of our other equipment and supplies were acquired through MATTER. MATTER is a non-profit company in the Twin Cities that also has an international component of connecting Minnesota's healthcare, education, and agriculture resources to communities that need them worldwide.

An open house was held in August for the Bethel community to come and see this new space. We wanted to share the blessing of so many who have contributed along the way, big and small, to make this happen. Every piece has been instrumental in pulling this all together to benefit others. Bethel Nursing wants to continue passing this blessing on to others by effectively and efficiently utilizing this great gift to train compassionate, caring, and knowledgeable nurses in the years to come. August was also the nurses' pinning ceremony for the program's third cohort. There is now a group of Post-Baccalaureate alumni more than 60 strong. In the summer a cohort of 31 started, with an additional 16 students who started in the fall. May the alumni of



Bethel Nursing continue to bless others wherever they serve!

"You will be [blessed] in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God." (2 Cor. 9:11)



[Bethel's New Post-Baccalaureate Nursing Lab Brings Key Training Space for Aspiring Nurses](#)

Leaders in Bethel's post-bacc nursing program are thrilled to open the new Post-Baccalaureate Nursing Lab. The new space allows the program to add a second cohort, doubling the number of students in the program. And it will provide essential learning spaces for adult students who are returning to school to seek a career change to nursing.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



CAS BSN Program Departmental Chapel

A departmental chapel was held in October 2022. Numerous faculty, staff, and students led worship and performed in a skit based on the birth of Laura Nugteren's first child. Our theme was "Belong." The verse we shared was Romans 15:7, "Welcome and receive [to your hearts] one another, then, even as Christ has welcomed and received you, for the glory of God." Over 80 students and faculty attended. It was great to see students from all four levels participating in the same event.

2020 Post-Pandemic Pinning Party

The "2020 Post-Pandemic Pinning Party" was held during Homecoming 2022. Nine graduates attended, along with approximately 25 family members and one graduate from the 1980s! Abigail Rhodes spoke about being resilient. Those who attended enjoyed reconnecting and catching up.



Find Us on Social Media

Bethel University Nursing Department's Facebook and Instagram pages are a great way to stay connected to the current happenings in the department. We encourage our alumni and friends to Like and Follow our pages.

January Study Abroad: Taiwan

During January 2023, CAS students had the amazing opportunity to study abroad in Taiwan.

Nursing professor Dr. Kristin Sandau, along with journalism professor Dr. Yu-li Chang Zacher, led a three-week interdisciplinary study abroad course to Taiwan with 11 undergraduate students, including three nursing students. Taiwan is a democracy and an island nation of Han Chinese, Taiwanese, and many indigenous groups. This [brief video](#) shows where they learned from the kind and thoughtful Bunun indigenous guides in Taitung, Taiwan.



The video's title, Kanasui, refers to a land area very special to the Bunun tribal group.



Pinning Ceremony

In May the Class of 2023 had their pinning ceremony, during which they committed themselves to the responsibilities and privileges of a nurse and the obligations of the nursing profession. Their class verse

was Joshua 1:9, “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.” We are so proud of their hard work—congratulations!

New Simulation Lab Video

Bethel has produced a [new video](#) of the Simulation Lab. Enjoy watching it, and share it with someone interested in nursing at Bethel!

CAPS RN to BSN Program

Bethel administration has made the difficult decision to close the RN to BSN program. Courses will be offered through the spring semester of 2024, allowing present students adequate time to complete their degrees. This program was successful for many years until the lack of enrollment exacerbated by COVID-19 led to the closure decision. We have enjoyed witnessing many of our graduates pursuing advanced degrees and giving back to the nursing profession.

GS Nurse-Midwifery Pilots Home Birth Simulation and Launches Ultrasound Training

[Katrina Wu](#)

Bethel’s Nurse-Midwifery Program is in a season of transition! Dr. Katrina Wu stepped into the Program Director role a year ago and is excited to lead and shape Bethel’s midwifery education into the future. Dr. Wu and Dr. Dawn Dahlgren-Roemmich, clinical director, completed their doctorates last year.

[GS Nurse-Midwifery - cont. on p. 5](#)

Faculty piloted a new home birth simulation into the birth skills intensive this last year, prompting additional reflection and discussion on labor support and community birth dynamics. In response to community input on the consistently expanding scope of practice for certified nurse-midwives, the program will launch a new ultrasound training introduction during our on-campus intensive on clinic skills this fall.

Amidst role transitions and doctoral completions, the Nurse-Midwifery Program program is grounded first and foremost in the joy of journeying with students as they develop into compassionate, competent, and confident midwives. 2023 officially marks our 100th nurse-midwifery graduate since our launch in 2014. God is good!

GS DNP Program

The final DNP students commenced in May of 2023. Due to a lack of enrollment and the inability to start additional nurse practitioner programs, the DNP program has closed. Dr. Wendy Thompson, the developer and program director of the DNP, created an excellent program, and the students who graduated completed meaningful projects that have contributed to nursing practice. Thank you, Wendy, for your contributions to Bethel and the DNP graduates of this program.



STUDENT UPDATES BSNA and NCF

[Student Leaders Isabel Joecks, Alex Belde, Maddie Urness, and Liz Dietz](#)

Last year the Bethel Student Nursing Association (BSNA) continued to form connections between individual students, the Nursing Program as a whole, and the greater Bethel community. Starting off the year, BSNA hosted a bonfire for the freshmen pre-nursing majors to facilitate a welcoming environment for all students. The BSNA team also focused on maintaining our Mentorship Program to provide underclassmen nursing students with additional support. To kick off the fall semester for all nursing students, BSNA hosted a department-wide Nursing Treat Day, where students and faculty could enjoy some delicious desserts between classes and in their downtime. BSNA hosted an internship panel for junior nursing students to give direction on finding nursing internships and an event with a CRNA guest speaker to provide insight on advanced practice. To close the fall semester, BSNA held a Christmas party in the Nursing Department where people could come and enjoy food, partake in fun raffles, and make blankets for hospitalized pediatric patients.

[BSNA and NCF - cont. on p. 6](#)



During the spring semester, BSNA held a Valentine's party for the nursing students with an assortment of drinks and snacks available to stop by and chat. We hosted three external events, which included packing kits for those experiencing homelessness, a blood drive, and a bone marrow drive through Be The Match. To end the year, BSNA hosted a spring cookout during finals week where students could stop by and grab a freshly grilled hot dog and play an assortment of yard games.

Nurses Christian Fellowship (NCF) had the opportunity to plan the Nursing Department community group time each week on Mondays. This was a big shift from our previous pattern of meeting one to two times per month, but it was a constructive and welcome change. NCF led meetings about twice a month in which we spent most of our time talking through "spiritual case studies" that connected our Christian faith and the challenges that come

with nursing practice and nursing school. On other weeks, NCF leaders collaborated with Nursing Department faculty and staff to provide Bible studies and staff testimony days. In each of these meetings, students had the chance to receive support and connection with other students and faculty.

Prayer was a significant focus of our weekly NCF meetings, and we set a strong standard of seeking prayer support for any difficult situations students were facing. We were excited to see engagement not only from nursing students but pre-nursing students as well, who were eager to become more involved with the Nursing Department. NCF had a hugely successful year, with more regular attendance than previous years and positive feedback from students and faculty. We are thankful for BSNA and NCF's many opportunities to provide a sense of community for Bethel nursing students, faculty, and staff!



Sigma Theta Tau

Tori Furlong

This past fall, 20 students from the CAS, CAPS, Nurse-Midwifery, and DNP programs were inducted into Sigma Theta Tau, an international honor society of nursing dedicated to the advancement of knowledge, teaching, learning, and service. The Chi at-Large chapter induction welcomed members

from Bethel, St. Olaf, St. Catherine, and Gustavus Adolphus Universities. This spring, the Chi at-Large chapter hosted an education day featuring a presentation titled "Racism in Nursing." Both Bethel students and faculty attended this event. Following this educational presentation, the chapter held its annual meeting led by the chapter president, alumna Abigail Rhodes '20.

Act Six Scholar and First-Generation College Student's Remarkable Journey from a Refugee Camp to Bethel

Pawlay Htoo '26 is a pre-nursing major, Act Six scholar, and first-generation college student with big dreams. She is also part of the K'nyaw tribe, a persecuted ethnic minority from Myanmar who came to the United States as refugees. Htoo shares her story of growing up in the U.S. as a refugee and her journey to Bethel, hoping she can inspire the next generation of K'nyaw students to honor their

heritage, continue telling their stories, and become who they're meant to be.



CELEBRATING FACULTY AND STAFF

Faculty Accomplishments



Dr. Dawn Dahlgren-Roemmich received her Doctor of Nursing Practice from Bethel University. The title of her scholarly project is *Prenatal Education for the Amish Client*.



Assistant Professor of Nursing Laura Nugteren received a \$873 faculty development grant to purchase supplies for the CAS lab to simulate clinical practice for better medication administration. This includes prepackaged oral medications and new injection pads.



Dr. Kristin Sandau co-authored the International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation 2023 Guidelines on Durable Mechanical Circulatory Support. Dr. Sandau has transitioned to a faculty position at the University of MN and is grateful for her 17 years at Bethel University.



Dr. Katrina Wu received her Ph.D. in Nursing Science from the Medical University of South Carolina. The title of her dissertation is *The Integration of Virtual Visits in Routine Prenatal Care*. She also received two awards at the 68th American College of Nurse-Midwives Annual Meeting & Exposition in 2023: the Excellence in Teaching Award and the Journal of Midwifery & Women's Health Best Review Article Award for her article entitled "Virtual Visits in Prenatal Care: An Integrative Review."

Dr. Debbie Solomon (photo below) received an award from the Isanti County Health and Human Services (ICHHS) Department this past summer. The purpose of the award is to recognize community members, county employees, and community partners who show exceptional support, love, and care for public health in the Isanti County community. Diane Wiss, the case worker who nominated Dr. Solomon, wrote, "Debbie has been a true champion of Public Health long before we experienced the pandemic, but more specifically over the last several years. She has been instrumental in helping ICHHS carry out our mission to prevent, promote and protect. Debbie is always willing to step up, work as a team, deliver quality services, and strengthen the wellbeing of Isanti County."



Photo from the *Isanti-Chisago Star* - Dr. Debbie Solomon (far right) with other ICHHS awardees.

New and Promoted Faculty/Staff and Farewells

NEW FACULTY



Teri Emenecker
Assistant Professor
CAPS Post-Baccalaureate Program



Tara Cheath
Assistant Professor
CAS BSN and CAPS Post-Baccalaureate Programs



Taneesha Douglas
Clinical Associate Professor
GS Nurse-Midwifery Program



Dr. Paige Hardy
Associate Professor
GS Nurse-Midwifery Program



Dr. Jana Nohrenberg
Associate Professor
CAS BSN and CAPS Post-Baccalaureate Programs

PROMOTED FACULTY



Julie De Haan, EdD, RN
Promoted to Professor
CAS BSN Program Director
CAS BSN and CAPS Post-Baccalaureate Programs



Julie Ann Vingers, PhD, APRN, FACNM
Promoted to Clinical Professor
GS Nurse-Midwifery Program

NEW STAFF/ROLES



Emily Franssen
Clinical Coordinator/Lab Staff
CAPS Post-Baccalaureate Program



Monica Stoesz
Lab Coordinator
CAPS Post-Baccalaureate Program



Sandy Varberg
Nursing Lab Director
CAS BSN and CAPS Post-Baccalaureate Programs



TaShonda Williamson
Clinical Coordinator
GS Nurse-Midwifery Program

FAREWELLS



Dr. Beth Anderson
Associate Professor;
CAS Community Health Program Director



Emily Day
Assistant Professor;
CAPS RN to BSN Program Director



Dr. Kristin Sandau
Professor



Dr. Jane Wrede
Associate Professor;
GS Nurse-Midwifery Program Director

Five Bundles of Joy!

The Nursing Department hosted a baby celebration this past spring for the five babies born over the last two years. Due to COVID, we had a delayed celebration, but three more littles were born with this delay! We welcomed Emmett, Violet, Leo, Zeke, and Selah. We were excited that a couple of babies and a toddler could join us at the celebration.

We had a theme of jungle animal babies. For our activity, faculty and staff stamped baby onesies with jungle animals as gifts to the babies—they were quite creative. We enjoyed visiting, eating cupcakes, stamping t-shirts, and seeing the moms and babies.

Celebrating Retirees Drs. Linda Anderson, Connie Clark, and Jone Tiffany

Nursing faculty, staff, and retirees gathered in the Eastlund Room last May to celebrate and honor three faculty who retired in spring 2023: Dr. Linda Anderson, Dr. Connie Clark, and Dr. Jone Tiffany. We are thankful for how they have invested in the students of the Nursing Department and for their many contributions to the University and the broader nursing community. They will be greatly missed, personally and professionally.



Professors Emeritae Jone Tiffany,
Linda Anderson, and Connie Clark





Linda Anderson, DNP, Professor Emerita, started at Bethel in 1990, teaching at the undergraduate level and, more recently, as the lead instructor for the public health course and clinical for two undergraduate nursing programs. Linda served as the CAS BSN Program Director from 2011-2022. Her work was pivotal during this time, including implementing significant curriculum changes and successfully leading us through the COVID years. Linda has served on multiple committees for both nursing and the University. She has been an active member of the Nursing Curriculum Committee for many years and assisted with reviewing and developing courses for the new Post-Baccalaureate program.

Dr. Anderson has been an active member of the Henry Street Consortium, an industry/education partnership organization that aims to strengthen nursing education for public health. She has brought knowledge from this partnership into curriculum design. She published and presented the co-authored text, *Population-Based Public Health Clinical Manual, The Henry Street Model for Nurses*, now in its fourth edition. In 2017, she served as a Fulbright Specialist at Diakonova University College in Oslo, Norway.

Connie Clark, PhD, Professor Emerita, started at Bethel in 2009. Connie has taught in the undergraduate, degree completion, and master's nursing programs. She expertly adapts her teaching style and translates the content to different student levels. Connie teaches leadership and research as well as the senior-level capstone course. Teaching at three levels has its challenges, especially related to being a fully involved faculty member for each faculty group. She is a role model for One Bethel. Connie has participated in numerous nursing and University committees, including serving on the Grievance Committee for Bethel for eight years.

Dr. Clark's research interests at Bethel relate to Somali mothers and childbirth. She has published and presented collaboratively multiple times on this topic nationally and internationally. Connie has remained actively involved in research and disseminating this research her entire academic career. Connie has also been significantly involved in serving her community, focusing on underserved populations.



Jone Tiffany, DNP, Professor Emerita, started at Bethel in 2001. She has a broad educational background, including nursing, mental health, simulation, and a practice doctorate. Her teaching specialty areas are also broad: obstetrics, medical/surgical, mental health, leadership, and simulation. She has taught at the undergraduate, degree completion, master's, and, most recently, DNP level. Jone has served on many committees for nursing and the University. She is an active member in all she does for Bethel.

Dr. Tiffany's expertise in teaching and simulation has been recognized by prestigious awards. She was awarded the Academy of Nursing Education Fellow and a Technology Scholar in Residence fellowship through the National League of Nursing in Washington, D.C. Jone is also a Gallup-Certified Strengths Coach. Jone received another notable award in 2018. A digital book she co-authored, *Lippincott Clinical Experiences: Community, Public, and Population Health Nursing*, received the American Journal of Nursing (AJN) Digital Book of the Year award.

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

Julie De Haan

Congratulations to **Katie Hawkins '23**, who was selected as last year's Student Employee of the Year! Katie worked in Conference and Event Services as a Ticket Office Assistant and was nominated by her supervisor, Amy Kelsey. In her nomination, Amy wrote, "Katie is a detail-oriented student employee who is awesome at her job. She takes her employment responsibilities to the next level with her servant attitude. Her nursing major is the perfect foundation for her friendly and helpful nature." Amy described Katie's ability to problem-solve and handle complex situations. Amy stated, "Katie's reasoning and problem-solving skills include gathering information, both from her immediate surroundings and from other sources. She is careful to consider all solutions before moving forward." Katie's skill set also reflects that of a nurse!

Katie liked her job and enjoyed working with Amy and interacting with the customers. The job appealed to Katie's detail-oriented nature. When asked how her job might relate to nursing, Katie listed the importance of professional communication, working with dissatisfied customers, thinking quickly, being okay with questions, and "problem-solving on my feet." Katie hopes to find a clinic nurse position after passing boards, and these skills will equip her well for her future job.



Katie Hawkins '23 (left) with Amy Kelsey



Bre Heisterkamp '15 has worked with Hennepin Healthcare as a forensic nurse since 2018. She shared that "holding space for patients to begin healing and finding their power was everything I wanted to do." She transitioned into a leadership role in 2022, and she can now empower the nurses in her team to continue their work on the Hennepin Assault Response Team. In April, she was honored with the Larry Anderson Partnership Award. The Aurora Center awards this to recognize outstanding leadership and partnership for their work with victims and survivors. We are incredibly proud of the important work Bre is doing. It is always special to see Bethel alumni acting as world changers and advocates in their community!



Empowered to Follow Her Heart

Bethel's post-baccalaureate nursing staff and faculty helped recent graduate **Kristen Kirk CAPS'22** land her dream job with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.



Reiley Klose CAPS'21 works as a Labor and Delivery RN in the Twin Cities. A colleague recently nominated Reiley for the Minnesota March of Dimes Rising Star, which recognizes a nurse who has demonstrated outstanding patient care, leadership, and professionalism in their first two years. She was recognized as a quick and intentional learner who seeks new opportunities to learn with confidence and humility.

An example of the care Reiley provides came from a patient comment, which expressed the excellent care they received. They felt she created a calm and supportive laboring experience full of support and care. The family noted that she prioritized the family's wishes and was sure to include Dad in the delivery process.



[How Trusting God Led this Bethel Alumna to be a Nurse in a War Zone](#)

One of the biggest life lessons that Major **Katie Lunning '12** has learned is to not say no to opportunities, especially when it is followed by the Holy Spirit's prompting. She has thrived in her faith and career, shaped by numerous challenges on her journey as a nurse in the National Guard. Lunning is confident that God extends his protection to those He has called to seemingly impossible tasks.

Major Lunning saved a multitude of lives during the Kabul evacuation. Her bravery and skill under pressure have earned her the Military Times' 2023 Airman of the Year award. Read more about her incredible story [here](#).

[ANA Innovation Award Winner](#)

Roxanne McMurray '86 recently received a National Innovation Award for her invention of the McMurray Enhanced Airway device. The award celebrates exemplary nurse-led innovations that improve patient safety and health outcomes.



Nalah Morrow GS'23 pursued Midwifery at Bethel with the goal to provide care for and educate both women of color and women of low socioeconomic status. She felt especially called to create a safe environment for all women to receive care and felt that Bethel would help prepare her with the necessary tools to do this. Nalah was a committed student and even attended school full-time while pregnant. On top of her other accomplishments, Nalah was selected as a recipient of a 2022-2023 Melanated Midwives Scholarship for \$5,000.

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of the Nursing Program!
Homecoming + Family Weekend 2024
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[Answering God's Call: From Bethel to Medical Missions, Faith Pyne's Journey of Service](#)

As **Faith Pyne '19** eagerly prepares for her upcoming missions journey, she reflects on her journey, from her beginnings at Bethel to her career in nursing, and realizes the profound impact her faith and dedication to serving others has had on her life.

Keep in touch with us!

bethel.edu/alumni/stay-connected/update-info



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nursing@bethel.edu ■ www.bethel.edu