

2022—23 ISSUE

PACESETTER

THE MAGAZINE OF KETTERING COLLEGE



ANSWERING THE CALL

New Faces, New Spaces, and Learning as We Grow

New Community Health Worker Program | Ukrainian Students Come to Kettering College | Restructure of Student Success Center

President's Message



This year's Pacesetter shows the dynamic range of experiences during this past academic year for our faculty, staff, and students. The year brought us highs and lows, triumphs and challenges, and, as usual, we humbly faced all of it together like the family that we are. I am always deeply proud of everyone who works and studies here, and this year is no different.

If I could choose a word to describe this past year, I would have to say "growth."

As a faith-based college, we do our best to truly put Christ at the center of our operations, even when we don't have the answers. A Bible verse from Proverbs 3:5 was in my heart often this year: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

As COVID-19 thankfully receded into the background, we were able to focus more on asking what we can do to best serve our students and community, here and beyond. There is a worldwide nursing shortage, and we whole-heartedly wish to contribute to being a solution to that problem. We've expanded our Nursing program and added more simulation labs, so students take on healthcare careers with confidence and knowledge securely in place.

We've put innovative ideas into movement while looking for ways to keep growing. With growth comes challenges, learning curves, and a need to lean on each other, which is precisely what everyone at Kettering College does so beautifully as a strong team. We intentionally sought out new ways to better serve our students, community, and world.

One of the biggest ways we've challenged ourselves this year was to open our doors to 34 Ukrainian students whose education was halted by the Russian invasion. We've never led such a large international initiative, but we agreed to proceed in faith, and now the students are here, growing their skills, surrounded by safety and love from their new friends. They've enriched our community with their culture, positivity, and dedication to their studies.

We know the best way to be a faith-based college is to put faith into action. Part of this entails serving the underserved and finding ways to improve access to healthcare. To this end, we have created a community health worker training certificate program. This program will utilize community members with servants' hearts to

be on the frontlines in under-resourced communities to build trust, knowledge, and empowerment.

Serving others is a large part of what we do, not only to follow Jesus but to build into students who are future healthcare workers. It is essential they serve with compassion, tolerance, and curiosity. To model this to them, we held another successful campus-wide Service Day to serve our brothers and sisters in the Greater Dayton area. Students also had opportunities to expand their view of the world by serving at two optional international medical missions trips this academic year.

We've made some renovations to our buildings to create more spaces for learning and gathering. We held our first-ever Homecoming weekend and Winter Formal dance for students. To assist our students in their success, we have expanded our personalized tutoring to include coaching and group review sessions. This change has been received well by students. Their improving test scores are a reminder that asking for help is equally as important as serving others in order to grow personally and academically.

I am proud of all the work we've done this year to be curious about trying different things to grow our programs, people, and faith. We have not looked only to our past to dictate how we do things—we have collaborated to take new actions in the name of progress and success. I look forward to the coming year to see how we can continue to grow closer to God and each other. We have proven the best ideas come to life when we share insights and collaborate to make bold changes that move us forward together.

It is a joy to be here, and if you are a part of our community, I'm glad you're a member of our family. If you've never been to Kettering College, I welcome you and invite you to join us if you feel called to be a healthcare professional. You will be surrounded by a team of mentors who cheer you on and lead the way.

Enjoy this issue of the Pacesetter, and be well.

God Bless,

Nate Brandstater

Nate Brandstater, PhD, President

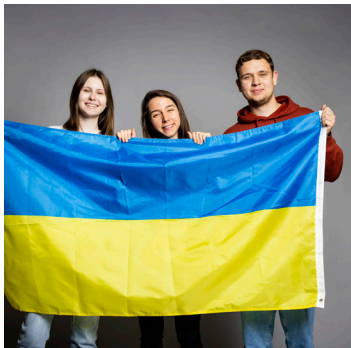




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Ukrainian Students Continue Studies Away from War

When war erupted in Ukraine, Kettering College opened our doors to students whose education was disrupted. We currently have 34 Ukrainian students with us, working hard toward their career goals while greatly enriching our campus.



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Nursing Program Expands

We welcomed our first cohort of students into our Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing program this academic year. The track extends the opportunity for students with a bachelor's degree to earn their Nursing degree in 15 months. A Master of Science in Nursing track will also be added to our offerings.



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Ponitz Pipeline: Breaking Down Barriers

Since 2006, Kettering College has partnered with a local career center to mentor Allied Health students. The program instills students with life skills as well as educating them on opportunities and resources to help them succeed personally and professionally.

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Kettering College, born out of Adventist faith, is a fully accredited college that offers graduate and undergraduate degrees in health science education. Upholding Christ, the college educates students to make service a life calling and to view health as harmony with God in body, mind, and spirit. A division of Kettering Health, Kettering College is located on the Kettering Health Main Campus in a suburb of Dayton, Ohio.





Ukrainian Students Continue Studies Away from War

Courageous students left their families and country to make Kettering College their home

When Russia invaded Ukraine in February of 2022, Ukrainians' lives were put on hold. As cities were bombed, businesses and schools began to close. As a way to assist, the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists created an "Education Emergency Response." They asked Adventist colleges and universities how they could help support Ukrainian students whose education was being disrupted by war.

Nate Brandstater, Kettering College president, knew inviting students to the college to continue their education free of charge would help tremendously. He reached out to colleagues and Kettering Health leadership to get their feedback on his unprecedented idea. He explains, "We do things here as a family. I wanted to make sure bringing Ukrainian students here was something we could wrap our arms around together."

He was transparent about not knowing all the logistics, but he felt called to humbly ask anyhow. He told them, "There are going to be challenges, no question about it, but the challenges we'll encounter with this initiative will be an incredible blessing to this group of students and to our community."

Every email response from colleagues was in full agreement to pursue this endeavor and that logistics would be revealed to us along the way. President Brandstater turned prayers into action by inviting Ukrainian students to enroll at Kettering College. This academic year, we have welcomed 34 Ukrainian students, most of whom are in the Nursing program.

A Group Effort to Succeed

The students have been acclimating to a new country, becoming more proficient in the language, and continuing their education in a safer environment. As they have settled into a routine and rhythm, their dedication and gratitude are apparent, along with their loyalty to each other, ensuring no one is left behind.

Professor Dan Schoun taught a math class of entirely Ukrainian students when they first arrived in August of 2022. He says, "Those who were the most proficient in English always sat next to those who needed additional help. The students explained the material to each other as I taught, and I didn't mind that at all."

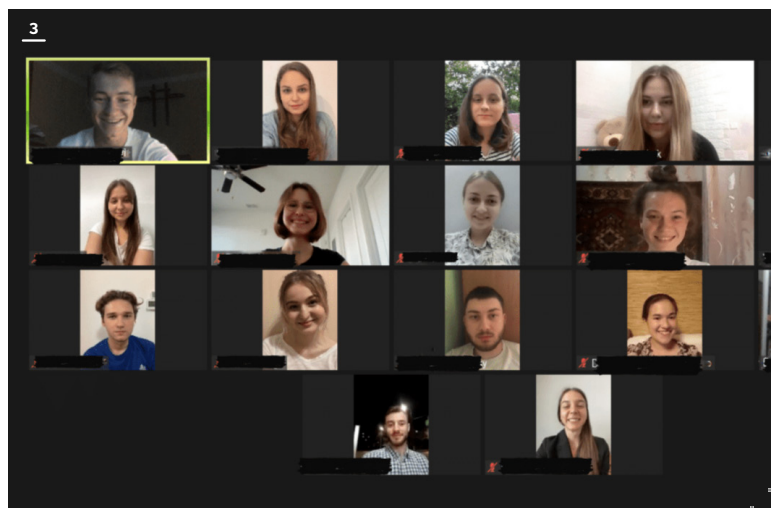
This group effort in class has meant professors have had to undergo a mindset shift to allow talking during class and not be distracted by it. Professors agree it was an adjustment, but it has now become the background sound in class that leads to progress.



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Professors and Students Learn Together

Teaching this group of students has required professors to adopt new ways of teaching. They have had to become students themselves to learn how best to engage and lead these English as a Second Language (ESL) students. They admit teaching ESL students has required creativity, grace, and curiosity from everyone involved.

Having so many ESL students in one class is new territory for these professors, as is attending college in a foreign country for the students. The patience, determination, and adaptability the professors are displaying is precisely what is being mirrored back to them by the Ukrainian students. The lines of learner and teacher are blurred as everyone works toward one common goal of succeeding together.

Surrounded by Support

Dustin Waters, director of Student Success, meets daily with the Ukrainian students. He is their designated coach, assisting them with anything they need to navigate their new lives such as helping get bank accounts and social security numbers; finding places to stay over Christmas; getting rides, and generally assisting them with anything they need to help make Kettering feel more like home.

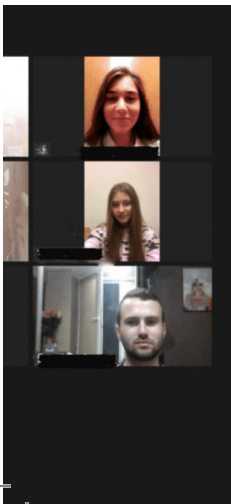
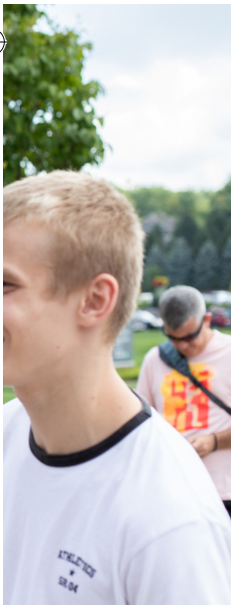
Tutors are available to all our students, and several of our Ukrainian students have taken advantage of this free resource. They work one-on-one with a tutor to improve their English conversation skills, writing, and reading comprehension. The students work hard and have made great progress to find their voices and grow confidence. Tutors have also helped the students understand American idioms and slang, so they feel more engrained in their new environment.

Sharing Their Culture

Judith Mendoza, associate director of Residential Life, has been intentional in making sure the students feel welcomed and a part of the community. She holds an ongoing social event called “KC Chats” in the residence hall. She invited the Ukrainian students to share some of their culture with everyone, so they made pierogis and taught other residents how to make them. They have made friends quickly, and Judith notes the residence hall is full of their laughter.

She says, “Seeing how timid a few of them were and the unease on their faces when they first arrived and now seeing how they’ve blossomed is one of my favorite things. Knowing that we’ve gotten to be a small part of making them feel safe enough to trust us with their true emotions is a very humbling experience. They now run around the dorm, hang out in the common areas more, and partake in all our activities.”

continued on page 4



FEATURED

1 | Three students attend a photo shoot for STRIVE, a Kettering Health publication. Read the article at ketteringhealth.org/publications. (Photo Credit: John A. Rossi Photography)

2 | Hillary Allen, admissions counselor, talks with Ukrainian students on Welcome Day for all students.

3 | Students gather over a Zoom call in Ukraine to discuss their plans to study at a place they had never heard of—Kettering College.

4 | Sharné Lazarus, admissions counselor, welcomes the students at the airport.



Living in Both Worlds

Extracting students out of the war does not mean the war no longer affects them. They wrestle with feelings of guilt that they are not home to stand in support with others. They balance that with everyday stress that comes with attending rigorous college courses that aren't in their native language.

Students Natalia Alieksandrova and Nataliia Savina have been leading the way to ask Ukrainian students about their mental health. The women were noticing their own feelings of sadness and anxiety. They check the news daily throughout the day, worrying about everyone. They wake up in the night to notifications about bombings in their country, and although they are here and safe, they don't feel safe since loved ones are back home in harm's way.

Enduring Survivor's Guilt

In a psychology class here, the women learned the feelings they are facing might be survivor's guilt. They realized this occurs when someone has escaped injury or harm, but their loved ones have not. They knew they must not be alone in these feelings, so they began conducting research and discussions with their peers.

They surveyed 29 out of 34 Ukrainian students and found several are showing signs of survivor's guilt: 76% are feeling a lack of motivation; 45% are feeling a sense of helplessness, and 55% have a desire to return to Ukraine.

They presented their research at a campus cultural diversity event to an audience of students, faculty, and staff. They explained they have witnessed tragedy and have felt the loss of their security, and what they are experiencing is similar to post-traumatic stress disorder as they try to process these experiences.

We continue to pray for a swift end to the Russian invasion, so these young adults can exhale in relief and focus on their futures instead of the anxieties of war.



The Weight of War

Natalia Alieksandrova said, "When you see us and we aren't smiling or we don't want to be a part of social situations, that's not because we are rude. It's because we are bearing much more than you can see. We wake up each day and wait to hear news of which relatives have been killed by Russians." She said the weight of this reality is heavy, but they are still grateful to be here.

Nataliia Savina added, "We are carrying more in our souls, our brains, and our memories. We are thinking of our families, friends, and people we don't even know in Ukraine. We cannot leave this news. It's a part of us." Natalia Alieksandrova quickly added, "We don't say this to make you feel sorry for us. We say this to create understanding between us."



FEATURED

5 | Students get a taste of home in the residence hall and make pierogis. (Photo Credit: Judith Mendoza)

6 | Ukrainian friends take a break from studying to enjoy ice cream at a Wellness Wednesday event. (Photo Credit: Rebecca Ingle)

7 | Two Ukrainian students see their new college for the first time and take a photo.

8 | Professor Dan Schoun laughs with Ukrainian students in his math class.

8 | Natalia Alieksandrova (pictured left) and Nataliia Savina presented their research on survivor's guilt at a campus cultural diversity event. (Photo Credit: Rebecca Ingle)



Strengthening Our Community and Faith

We continue to stand by our decision to open our doors to these students, even when solutions and the future are not clear. We will continue to provide education and hope to them, and they will continue to teach us in countless ways in the coming years. They've added their culture, joy, and strength to our community, which is now their community.

Like the students, we also carry mixed emotions. We are relieved they are here, yet saddened they have to be here. We feel a profound sense of protection over them, as though we are standing in place for their parents who bravely chose safety for their children. We care for them in the same way we would hope our family would be cared for far from home.

We continue to pray for a swift end to the Russian invasion, so these young adults can exhale in relief and focus on their futures instead of the anxieties of war. As is the case for all our students, we surround the Ukrainian students in prayer, support, and love. It is an honor to walk alongside them on this part of their journey. We praise their parents who trust our family enough to care for their children they miss so much, and we look forward to the day when they can be reunited.



"Coming to Kettering College, I felt safe, but I felt anxious for my family. A new country, mentality, culture, and language –it was all new to me, and I felt out of place. I wanted to wake up in the morning to my dog barking, to hear my sister laughing, to smell my dad's coffee, and to get a gentle kiss on the cheek from my mom. The school year has flown by, and I study every day. My lifeline is on Saturdays, when I go to church and feel peace. I am very grateful to God for this experience and for the people here." —Yuliia Mikheinska

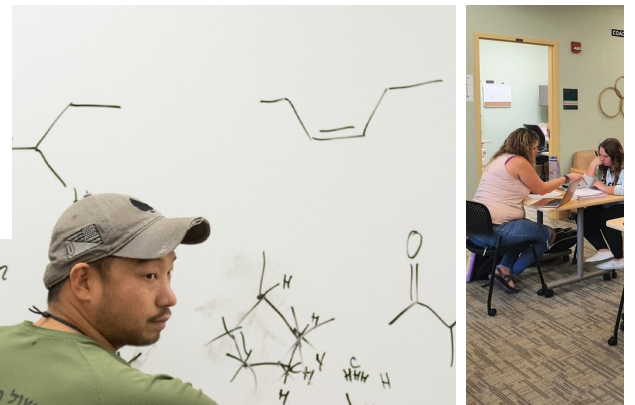
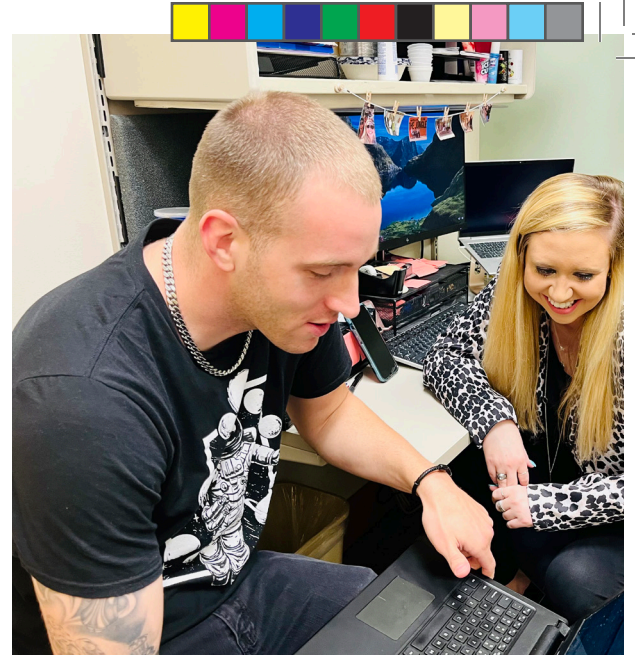
(Photo Courtesy of Yuliia Mikheinska)



Scan here to support the Ukrainian Student Initiative

Student Success Center Pivots to Better Serve Students

Innovating new ways to meet students where they are



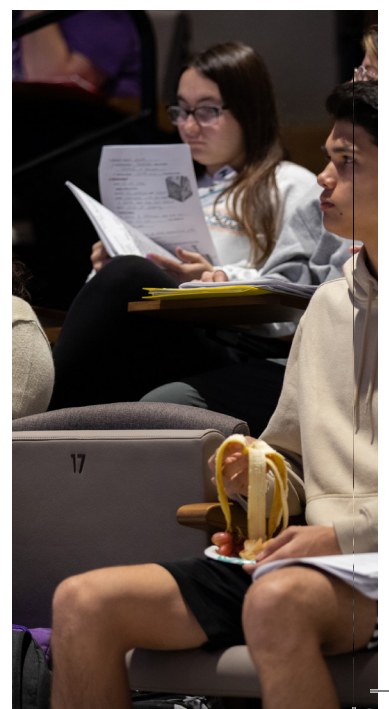
An apparent advantage of attending a small college is the personalized attention students get to help them succeed. Succeeding in college entails more than academic achievement. It encompasses things such as self-care, good study and sleep habits, and time management skills. The staff in our Student Success Center takes all of these components into consideration to help students reach their goals both personally and professionally.

The end goal is not just for our students to get good grades, but to learn good habits and move on to be healthcare professionals with the necessary tools to thrive in all areas of life.

Finding New Ways to Help Students Succeed

Ben Hotelling, associate dean of students, wanted to provide holistic support to students to help them reach their personal and academic goals. This academic year, he has renamed Academic Support to be the Student Success Center (SSC) and pivoted some of its operations. The result is an SSC that utilizes tutors, as well as newly added coaches, to partner with students to help them stay engaged, focused, and determined to succeed.

Ben says, "We have implemented a coaching model, rather than a traditional academic advisor model for all our pre-program students. Every new student who is taking coursework with the goal of getting into





one of our programs is assigned a student success coach, rather than an academic advisor. The coaches are professionals whose sole role is to support students throughout their journey here as a pre-program student and get them into the program of their choosing."

This idea came to fruition when Kettering College leadership began to discuss ways to retain

Holistic Coaching

Dustin Waters, director of the SSC, explains that a coach is equivalent to students having an "inside champion" to work alongside them and build rapport. He explains, "The intentional fostering of students' holistic needs leads to greater success. High-level tutoring touches academic subject matter or writing-specific matters."

He adds, "Coaching deals with the whole student:

and empower incoming students by pinpointing areas where they struggle, whether personally or academically. Ben says, "I want students to have a strong relationship with their coaches, so they are getting outstanding grades and getting into our programs, and so they are flourishing with us, not only academically, but spiritually, socially, and emotionally as well."

spirituality, finances, social issues, well-being, as well as study skills, and time management. We bring students into our offices once every week or two and go through the material, which is helpful by itself. Then the conversation moves on to a more general 'How are you doing? Is there anything coming down the pike I should know about that I can help with? What did your mom say about that test?'"

Student-Led Review Sessions

Dustin points out in addition to the implementation of coaches, the creation of group study sessions has helped students feel more confident in their abilities, which is a key component in retention. The SSC has held various group study sessions where a student tutor reviews the material for an upcoming exam. These groups have been popular, and average test scores as a result of the sessions increased by nearly eight percentage points in the fall 2022 semester.

Respiratory Care student Heather Allyn is a tutor who led a "Coffee and Cram" group review session for anatomy and physiology. When the SSC team created this idea, they didn't know if the 7:30 a.m. review session would be well-received by students, but the early morning start time did not scare them off. In fact, nearly 20 students signed up but almost double that amount attended.

Heather says, "Getting up, and coming into school so early to squeeze in that last bit of study time is not a small commitment, and it was wonderful to see so many students do that. This session brought the hard work these students had already put into this class

to the forefront of their minds right before taking the exam. Had they not put in the work prior to this study session, it is very likely this event would not have been very helpful."

The attendance and feedback were so great that the SSC decided to implement more of these review sessions on an ongoing basis for additional classes. Brittany Seeger, SSC coach, explains the department decided to expand upon its "Coffee and Cram" session to include lunchtime review sessions for chemistry called "Lunch and Learn," in response to students' requests. She says, "While these review sessions are by no means a substitute for continuous and strategic studying, they offer the students a new way of looking at things and an opportunity to hear the material being explained through a different perspective via the tutor."

The staff at the SSC heard the concerns of our students and worked together to create these optional events to offer support. Dustin says, "This is a win for everyone involved, and it should set the tone going forward that we at Kettering College care deeply about our students and share in their success."

Test Scores and Retention Rates on the Rise

Taking advantage of helpful resources can be intimidating, especially for first-year students, but the numbers prove students are utilizing the SSC's tutors, coaches, and group review sessions. Over 1,600 tutoring or coaching appointments occurred this academic year, proving students are doing their part to be responsible for their success by taking advantage of helpful resources.

As Ben restructured the operations of the SSC, his focus was on improving pre-program retention rates to support students as they grow their knowledge and life skills. He has noted a trend that points to a definite increase in retention rates for pre-program students. Ben says, "The data we have is clear that something is working. We strongly believe it's this newfound relationship that perfectly blends our pre-program faculty and coaches together, with the individual

student being at the center of everything we do." Ben took this innovative step toward trying new things, and with the academic year behind us, we can confidently say it has proven to be a step in the right direction. It has created an open dialogue and partnership between faculty, staff, tutors, coaches, and most importantly, students to make success be a goal we reach together.

The restructure has placed an emphasis more on prevention and the cultivation of good habits instead of waiting until issues occur to ask for help. Additionally, it has taught students that asking for help is not a sign of failure or weakness but instead a foundational step toward achievement. Students are seeing when they work hard and surround themselves with others who want them to succeed, their goals become much more attainable.

FEATURED

1 | Student Heather Allyn leads the first-ever "Coffee and Cram" group review session for an anatomy and physiology exam. (Photo Credit: Ben Hotelling)

2 | Student and tutor Moses Chung leads the inaugural "Lunch and Learn" for chemistry. (Photo Credit: Ben Hotelling)

3 | Courtney Sewell, SSC coach, meets with a student in the Nursing program. (Photo Credit: Rebecca Ingle)

4 | Students work with tutors in the Student Success Center. (Photo Credit: Dustin Waters)

5 | Students discuss chemistry while eating pizza at a "Lunch and Learn" led by student Amanda Mathey. (Photo Credit: Rebecca Ingle)

6 | Some group review sessions were so popular the SSC moved them to the auditorium.

CAMPUS RENOVATIONS



Creating new spaces for future healthcare workers

We made several renovations around campus this academic year to enhance learning and strengthen community. One of the most notable accomplishments was an addition to our Interprofessional Education (IPE) Simulation Center. The newest addition, Lab C, was completed to address the growing needs of the Nursing program.

Lab C consists of five patient rooms and was designed to mirror the layout of the two existing labs. The lab is equipped to simulate skills currently required in the Nursing program in a dedicated space where students can grow their skills safely. The goal is to mimic a professional healthcare setting as closely as possible to prepare students as they move into the workforce.

Nursing students will be able to perform a head-to-toe physical assessment using high-fidelity manikins. They will learn to perform a wide range of skills including insertion/discontinuation and care of an indwelling urinary catheter, and IV fluids. Phillip Smith, IPE Simulation Center technician, says, "Our lab has committed space and faculty resources for up to 15 simultaneous simulation scenarios. No student gets to 'just watch' another student practice in a simulation."

He continues, "Our lab is equipped with a custom, robust audio/video system that allows our faculty to observe student performance from our centrally located control room." Nursing faculty have discovered this gives students the space to work together to find answers rather than instinctively looking to the instructor.

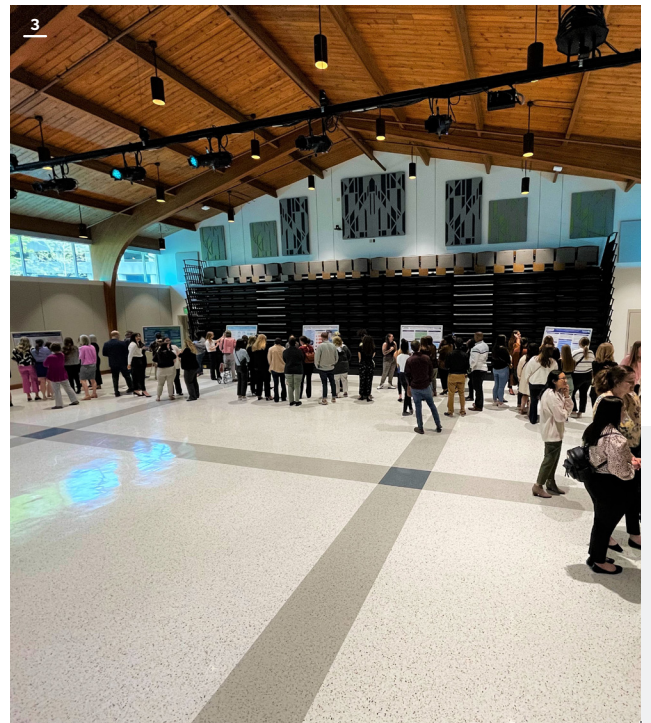
Beverly McLean, IPE Simulation Center director, explains, "The philosophy for our labs has always been that they are a place where students never fail—they just keep practicing until they get it right. The primary goal is that all students are encouraged to actively participate in the simulation experience and not be hindered by fear of failure, being ridiculed or making a mistake. We tell our students that it's better that they make their mistakes on a manikin than in the clinical setting."

New Auditorium Space

We renovated our previous gymnasium space into a 220-seat multi-purpose auditorium. It was created to accommodate programs, classes, seminars, and presentations. The seats can be easily stowed away to create an open space for various gatherings.

Faculty, staff, and students have been using the auditorium space frequently since its inception this academic year. Some gatherings in the auditorium have included:

- Homecoming scholarship dinner
- Student research presentations
- Explore Kettering recruitment events
- Diversity for Healthcare Workers presentation





- Wellness Day events
- Lunch and Learn review sessions

As the demand for nurses increases and our Nursing program expands, our intention is to increase classroom space to support this projected growth. The space adjoining the auditorium is a large classroom with an accordion style wall on one side that can be opened to create an even larger space that can seat 120 people.

Renovated Respiratory Lab

The Respiratory Care department has a newly remodeled lab with an additional bed to accommodate the increasing need for respiratory therapists. Our lab and classroom can now hold 24 students while still maintaining our 6:1 student-to-faculty ratio. The lab allows students to gain hands-on experience while discussing the material with peers and the instructor.

Our Respiratory Care program is one of less than 25 in the nation that has been awarded the President's Award for Excellence several consecutive years. The renovations will help build upon our already established reputation and growing interest in this field.

Anna May Café

The Anna May Café is a gathering space where students can have a snack and sit together to study or socialize. The space was named after Kettering College's first director of Nursing, Anna May Vaughan. A 1969 graduate, Margaret Neumiller Brenneke, contributed funds for this project in hopes of creating a warm, inviting space for current students.

FEATURED

1 | Kettering College faculty and staff, along with Kettering Health leadership, cut the ribbon to officially open the additional simulation lab.

2 | Gerson Hortua, simulation technician, shows the group the lifelike qualities of the manikins.

3 | Students in the Nursing program attend a class being held in the auditorium.

4 | Nate Brandstater, Kettering College president, speaks to a group of scholarship recipients from the auditorium's stage.

5 | The updated Respiratory Care lab offers more space for hands-on learning and discussion.

6 | The Anna May Café gives students a space to gather to study or socialize.

New Community Health Worker Training Program

The Ohio Board of Nursing has recently approved a new certificate program at Kettering College to train community health workers (CHWs). We have one urgent goal with implementing this program: help eradicate healthcare barriers in underserved communities.

Roles of a CHW

CHWs are an essential part of closing the gap of healthcare disparities. They live in the communities they serve and are entry-level healthcare workers who act as liaisons between medical professionals, social workers, and patients. They help patients and their families navigate and access community services, healthcare resources, and adopt healthy preventative behaviors. They serve their communities with empathy by combining education, social work, nursing, and public health services.

Johnjé Jasper, a registered nurse, is the program's administrator. She points out gaining trust is an essential component in healthcare. She says, "Minority communities sometimes distrust the medical system, which is understandable; however, we must figure out as a community how to teach people to be advocates for themselves to get the right care. By training CHWs who can relate to patients because they have shared experiences, it can often take the shame out of asking for help."

Grant Awarded for Program

Kettering College received a grant to create and implement this program from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The grant covers tuition, laptops, and various wrap-around services to help with expenses such as childcare or transportation. The aim is to eradicate obstacles for students who are experiencing some of the same barriers as the patients they will one day serve.

Dr. Paula Reams, dean of Nursing, laid the groundwork for bringing this certificate program to Kettering College and helped write the grant application. She says, "This grant gives us the chance to help our local communities. Not only will we be able to educate new CHWs to help their own neighbors, but we will also be able to offer continuing education to current CHWs. There is also a great opportunity for potentially hiring CHWs in our community outreach programs at Kettering Health."



CHW Curriculum

The program is completed in one semester with classes meeting in the evenings in the Dayton area. Students will learn skills such as:

- Basic anatomy and physiology
- Across-the-lifespan education
- How to obtain vital signs
- Professional skills, such as how to do a home visit and communicate with providers

Admission Requirements

Students must be at least 18 years of age, have a high school diploma or GED, and demonstrate a commitment to improving healthcare access for underserved communities. Johnjé says, "Students don't have to have a medical background or college experience. Most importantly, we want to reach the population who represents the community they're going to serve."

First Cohort and Future Goals

The first cohort of students begins in August 2023. As the CHW training program gains momentum and exposure, we have a projected goal of having 150 certified CHWs in place within three years in the Trotwood and Dayton area, two locations designated as medically underserved by the HRSA.

Johnjé has been building this program since we received the funding to support it. From discussing the program with anyone she meets to creating a curriculum and forming relationships with guest speakers, she knows the CHW program is bigger than just a program. It will put healthcare workers on the frontlines to help provide hope, connection, and empowerment for people who don't feel seen or heard.

She says, "I cannot wait to see this group exceed. I get emotional when I think about what this can do to change someone's life. Not just the life of the student by providing resources and education, but allowing them to meet their God-given purpose, to pour into someone else, to remind them of their strength and dignity, and that they deserve to meet their full potential."



FEATURED

1 | Johnjé Jasper, CHW program administrator talks to someone interested in the program.

2 | Dr. Paula Reams was instrumental in getting funding for the CHW program through a grant.



New Spiritual Care Minor Prepares Students for Patient Care

Kettering College challenges its students with rigorous academic courses and clinicals, but we also strive to help our students become the people they want to be spiritually. Our required religion classes encourage students to first know themselves before they serve others. Self-awareness and spiritual health are goals students often meet without considering the importance of such qualities prior to enrolling. Students can now take these valuable religion courses and earn a minor in spiritual care, allowing them to use their 12 credits of religion they must take anyway along with three additional credits outside of those classes. Dr. Cory Wetterlin, Humanities chair and professor, says adding this minor to their resumes gives students an advantage and a talking point in an interview that shows a hiring manager the student has worked on critical skills needed to serve others with empathy and care. He says he is continually receiving positive feedback from students who have taken the religion courses. They often admit they didn't know what to think of them, but after the courses, they noticed a difference in how they engage with patients in more meaningful ways and hold themselves accountable to striving for more connection. Professor Wetterlin says, "It's a great program that sets us apart from other colleges. Students say they feel the material is so important they can't imagine not getting it in their curriculum since it prepares them so strongly to know themselves, so they can serve others with more balance and vulnerability."

PROGRAM INNOVATIONS

FEATURED

- 1 | Dr. Cory Wetterlin engages his religion class in a discussion.
- 2 | The first four students to obtain a minor in spiritual care graduated in April 2023. (Photo Credit: Dr. Cory Wetterlin)
- 3 | Katelyn Feeser (pictured left) presented at the Choose Ohio First Scholar Showcase in Columbus, Ohio, as Nursing professor Devon Skinner cheered her on (pictured right). (Photo Courtesy of Devon Skinner)

Choose Ohio First

Grant Expanded to Include Respiratory Care and Sonography Students



Kettering College is receiving funds from the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) for the Choose Ohio First (COF) program for eligible Nursing students. In December 2022, the ODHE announced this same funding will now be extended to Respiratory Care and Sonography students. The COF scholarship program began in 2008 and is continuing in an effort to strengthen Ohio's science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) occupations. Lt. Governor Jon Husted says, "Choose Ohio First scholarships help keep our kids and grandkids right here in Ohio to further their education in STEM without racking up student loan debt." Katelyn Feeser is a student in the Nursing

program and is a recipient of the COF scholarship. She says, "The scholarship helps with each semester. It's equivalent to covering my textbooks and my gas to drive back and forth, which is 35 minutes away." She says the scholarship was easy to apply for and is helping make her education be more financially attainable. She adds that she is grateful for the scholarship and honored to be a student here. She says, "I am a transfer student from another college and the comparison is just extraordinary. The faculty are kind and compassionate and truly care about their students and the education they are getting. It's just not a job for the faculty here—it's a passion."



Nursing Program Expands

A-BSN and MSN tracks added to offerings

Kettering College began offering the new Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (A-BSN) track in fall 2022, which allows students to complete the full-time Nursing program in 15 months (four semesters), pending completion of prerequisites. The curriculum is the same as the BSN track but presented in seven-week courses.

Dr. Lynnette Williams is the A-BSN track chair. She says, "Because the nursing profession has a nationwide shortage that was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the A-BSN track was created to allow aspiring nurses with bachelor's degrees in areas other than Nursing to complete the accelerated full-time Nursing program. It includes a combination of online, blended, and face-to-face formats."

Dr. Williams adds, "Kettering College is the only A-BSN track in the Greater Dayton area. The accelerated track provides a focused curriculum that prepares students with the knowledge to pass the National Council Licensure Examination and enter the nursing profession confidently with the skills to provide holistic patient care."

Current Cohort from Various Backgrounds

Our inaugural A-BSN cohort proves changing direction in your career is possible, no matter what field of study you're moving from. Students in the accelerated Nursing track have backgrounds in a variety of careers. Their bachelor's degrees include:

- Graphic Design
- Human Biology
- Psychology
- Anthropology
- Biological Sciences
- Sociology
- Communications

Career Change is Possible with A-BSN

A-BSN student Aurora Turner previously worked as a dermatology medical assistant and realized she loved working with patients and wanted to learn more skills. She says, "I chose Kettering College because it's close to home, has smaller class sizes, and has a long track record of graduating skilled nurses with high success rates." She says, "It is a very fast-paced and work-intensive program, but I am learning every day, and it's exciting to start clinicals from the first semester!"

Kristy Kiefaber is an A-BSN student who discovered her desire to be a nurse after working as a teacher and national park ranger. She has an undergraduate degree in anthropology and a master's degree in education, but when she had positive interactions with nurses, she began to consider it as a viable career option for her.



She is grateful to have found an accelerated nursing program in her neighborhood without having to commute to Cincinnati. Like several of our students, she is balancing her pursuit of a new career with her personal life. She says, "I have a family to take care of too outside of school. I have a very active second grader that keeps me on my toes. My professors have been amazing and so giving with their knowledge."

Youn Ji Park studied biology for her undergraduate degree, and after attending a medical mission trip, she felt called to care for patients and be their advocate as a nurse. As she researched ways to become a nurse, she felt encouraged by our A-BSN track to start a new career she feels passionate about. She says, "This new program



gave me the opportunity to finish the program earlier at a lower cost. I also love that Kettering College is directly associated with Kettering Health.”

In the fall of 2023, the second A-BSN cohort will begin. We will continue to work together toward our goal of creating more compassionate, skilled nurses for our community and beyond. We welcome students with a bachelor’s degree who are looking to change direction in their career to become a nurse.

Master of Science in Nursing Track

We are proud to now offer a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program with the first cohort anticipated to start January 2024. The track is designed to equip nurses with the knowledge and skills needed to move into nursing leadership roles in their careers. Students choosing this degree are interested in advancing their nursing careers toward leadership and management to improve healthcare outcomes.

FEATURED

1-4 | A-BSN students learn about obstetrics in the simulation lab for their unit on family medicine.



Dr. Nicole Orian, Graduate Nursing program chair, says the MSN degree track has been in discussion for several years between Kettering College and Kettering Health leadership. She says, “Nursing leadership has indicated a strong need for the MSN program in terms of workforce development and succession planning.”

She adds, “The online MSN program will facilitate flexible access to high-quality education that will prepare nurses for the leadership roles in which they currently serve or aspire to advance to. This program is an excellent fit for a wide variety of individuals including nurse leaders at the bedside, charge nurses, assistant nurse managers and nurse managers, nurse educators, community nurse leaders, nursing professional development specialists, and more.”

MSN Curriculum

The MSN program prepares nurses for leadership roles in the rapidly changing healthcare environment. Core content in the curriculum includes: leadership, health promotion, organizational behavior, human resources, financial management, evidence-based practice, quality improvement, and mentoring.

The curriculum is 39 credits and includes 460 clinical hours. There are 17 total courses scheduled for completion over a two-year (six semester) period. Clinical experiences are arranged with healthcare facilities close to the student’s geographic area in partnership between the student, a healthcare facility, and Kettering College.

Nursing continues to be a lucrative, fulfilling career, full of variety and projected continual demand and opportunities for growth. We are proud to offer students these two new tracks to become a nurse or strengthen their current skills to progress into leadership roles.



Service Day Now an Annual Tradition



Students, faculty and staff serve others to strengthen the local community

A campus-wide day of serving others was created two years ago by Dr. Tuta Ionescu, Radiologic Sciences & Imaging chair. Her vision was to have faculty, staff, and students spend a day volunteering together to help the local community and to exemplify one of our institutional pillars: service.

With that goal in mind, Service Day was born. With the second year ending in success, it is safe to say it is now a Kettering College tradition that occurs annually in September. Service Day focuses on assisting non-profit organizations in the Greater Dayton area, so they can better serve others. It is planned by the Service-Learning Committee with support from the Kettering College Administration, Student Affairs, as well as faculty and staff.

Dr. Ionescu and Service Day co-chair Sarah Brandell, assistant professor of Physician Assistant Studies, were committed to building onto last year's inaugural event. Every department at Kettering College participated to help local non-profits do anything from cleaning and organizing to landscaping and caring for service dogs.

The feedback from participants has been positive, saying it was fulfilling to take a day to learn how these great organizations serve our community and to work alongside their peers and professors outside the walls of a classroom. Dr. Ionescu says, "Although we do this for the community at large, we also do it for ourselves. Friendships are forged and strengthened throughout."





“Although we do this for the community at large, we also do it for ourselves. Friendships are forged and strengthened throughout.” —Dr. Tuta Ionescu



This year's Service Day brought in 531 volunteers from the college to serve at various Greater Dayton organizations. All of the organizations that hosted volunteers from the first Service Day asked to have our volunteers return again this year since they were so pleased with the results. Some participating non-profits include:

- **Good Neighbor House**
- **St. Vincent de Paul**
- **Dayton Metro Library**
- **SICSA**
- **Clothes that Work**
- **Homefull**

Dr. Ionescu says she now knows this event can be accomplished. She imagined it could be done,

and now she knows it can be done because she's witnessed it for two years now and has seen it expand. She says, "We learned that local organizations are very eager to partner with our institution to do good. We also discovered that students love to come together with college employees, working side by side, to help communities in need."

Kettering College is excited to have a dedicated day each year when all departments gather to serve the local community and enjoy fellowship. Together, our teams make Service Day a time to lift others up and remember the importance of having a servant's heart, especially when answering the call to work in healthcare.



Service-Learning Curriculum in Action

Creating compassionate healthcare professionals

As healthcare professionals, our students will one day treat patients and have the added skill of being compassionate providers. To cultivate the skills that support human connection, service-learning activities are built into our curriculum.

One such service-learning event happens monthly at Target Dayton where students have the chance to connect with and serve people. Target Dayton is an organization in downtown Dayton that offers church services and meals to people who are experiencing homelessness in the area. They even provide transportation to lower-income housing and shelters to bring people to the free meals.



Meeting Physical and Spiritual Needs

Target Dayton informs all volunteers that anyone who attends a service and dinner is to be treated as a guest, and the volunteers are the hosts. Volunteers are told that treating guests with dignity and care is the top priority, as several of them have not had this in quite some time, if ever.

Before sharing a meal, guests and volunteers first attend a church service to remind them of God's love for them. As the guests relax, volunteers serve them, clean up after them, and enjoy conversation as they share a meal. If guests are open to prayer, students are encouraged to pray with them.

Students enjoy serving at Target Dayton, finding it so rewarding they often return on their own time, once they witness firsthand the positive effects and reminding others they are worthy of God's love and ours.

Growing Skills to Serve

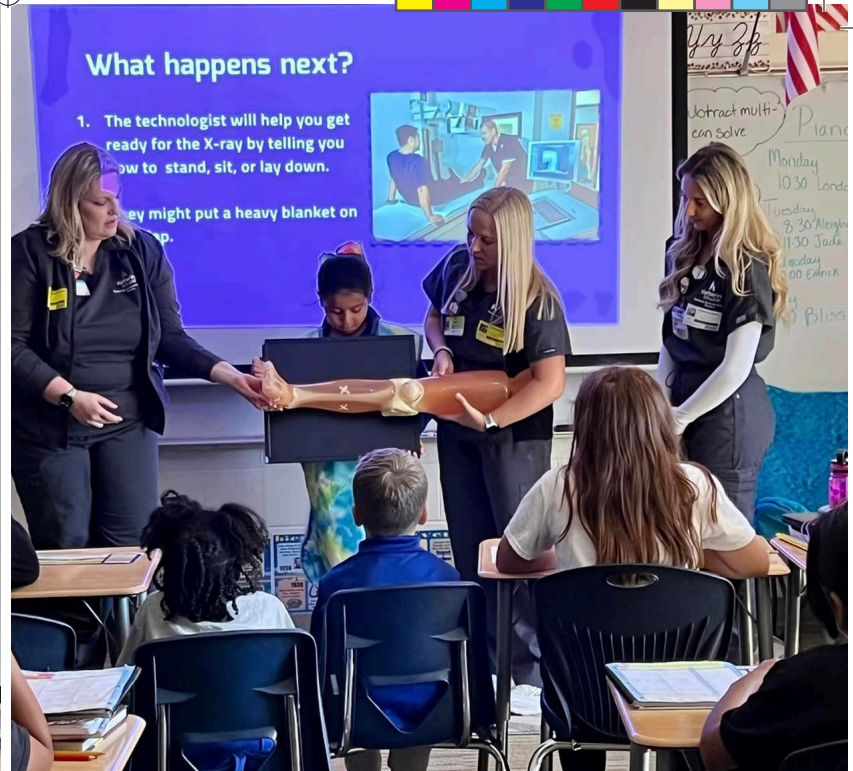
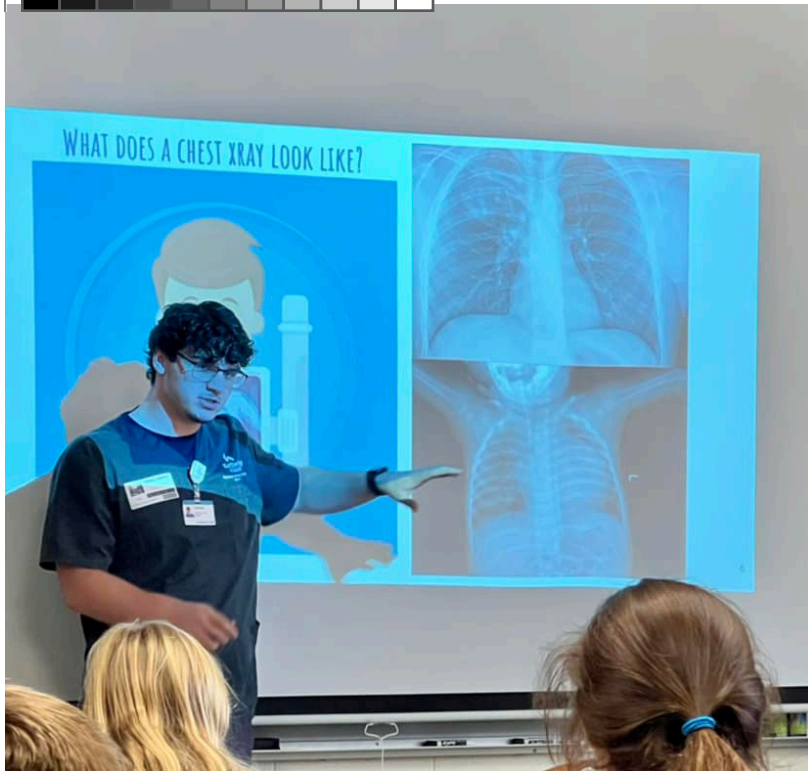
Service-learning projects help students to look outward. Steve Carlson, Campus Ministries director, says it's powerful to witness the impact service has on students. He says, "Students serve others in our own area and realize how different their experiences are from theirs. It pushes students to have more awareness and to see there are people in need everywhere."

Caring for others takes confidence, vulnerability, and a desire to help. Steve points out students will need to utilize these same emotional tools as they serve patients. They'll meet people who are different from them and find themselves not agreeing with choices that person has made, but as healthcare professionals, they will need to find the courage to be present with each patient without judgment, emotionally, physically, and spiritually.

Steve says, "When our students become healthcare providers, they'll need to show patients they care what they're going through. We need our students to learn the skills of having patients know they're not alone, which is the same compassion and empathy we're hoping to create with this serving opportunity."

Kettering College helps students answer the call of serving others through healthcare, and Steve says fulfilling that as our mission means we must do the work to back that up. He says, "If our mission is to help students make service a life calling, we need to remind them life is now—it doesn't suddenly start after graduation. If we lay down the groundwork now, students can get in that mindset through college, so one day serving their patients and communities with empathy becomes second nature."





Students Serve the Next Generation

Kettering College Radiologic Sciences & Imaging (Rad Tech) students visit Spring Valley Academy (SVA) every year to teach third- and fourth-grade students about x-rays. This project was designed by Dr. Tuta Ionescu, Rad Tech chair and professor, in 2014 to incorporate service learning into the Rad Tech curriculum. Through collaboration with SVA, a K-12 Christian institution, the second-year Rad Tech students conduct multiple visits and presentations throughout the school year.

Dr. Ionescu says, "The goal is to increase awareness about safety, injuries that can cause bone fractures, how to prevent such injuries, and what to expect in a hospital setting should such injuries occur. This service-learning project is directly linked to the students' summer didactic learning on pediatric radiography and imaging."

Idamae Jenkins, Rad Tech assistant professor, says, "The class's visit to SVA is a chance to interact with the pediatric population, knowing that some of our students have not had their pediatric rotation at the clinical site yet. It gives them a chance to showcase their creativity and enhance their communication skills by speaking to a large group of people."

The Rad Tech professors hope the interactive methods Kettering College students present in the SVA classes help introduce young students to new knowledge and increase awareness of healthcare professions. They agree watching students step into the role of teachers is rewarding, as they find creative ways to convey basic concepts to a group of students with different learning styles.

While in the SVA classrooms, the Rad Tech students are in charge of the entire session. No matter what the day brings, the students must field all questions on their own and implement engaging ways to present the material.

Visiting the SVA classrooms has proven to be a rewarding service-learning project that students feel helps them use their knowledge in a new way. The department sends a post-visit survey. The surveys show students enjoy their time at the schools, especially answering the impromptu questions while professors observe their leadership.

Kettering College's partnership with SVA is helping our students push themselves out of their usual routines and expand their confidence and knowledge as they serve others. Students on both sides gain new information and curiosity from the day of instruction, showing that serving others helps everyone involved to grow.



New Outreach and Service-Learning Program

We partner with local organizations every month to provide opportunities for students to stretch themselves past their comfort zones and experience the power of service. Renee Fite is the coordinator of the program and collaborates with area non-profit organizations to develop the volunteer opportunities and discover the needs of the community.

Renee explains Kettering College's new outreach and service-learning program "provides students with service-learning opportunities they can participate in as part of their curriculum, or as an extra-curricular experience. It strengthens their exposure and commitment to service as a lifelong priority."

As students, faculty, and staff work together to humbly serve others, we turn the teachings of Jesus into action. Our hope is that students feel forever changed when they graduate and see the world through a new lens as a result of their service experiences.

Photos Courtesy of Tuta Ionescu and Steve Carlson



International Medical Missions Trips



Students use their healthcare and humanitarian skills in new ways in new places

Students have the opportunity to expand their knowledge and awareness in our classrooms and communities. They also have the chance to challenge themselves in very different international environments when they take part in optional international medical missions (IMM) trips. These trips are a time for students, faculty, and staff to be immersed in a new culture and environment and serve those who might otherwise not receive medical attention.

During the 2022-2023 academic year, Kettering College groups took IMM trips to Peru and the Philippines. The July 2022 trip to Peru was the first after a three-year hiatus due to COVID-19 restrictions. Steve Carlson, IMM director says, "More patients visited the clinic than were possible to see in our short visit. I'm so thankful we were able to give this experience to students, who in some cases had been waiting for years to attend."



Delivering Healthcare to Peru

The students were equally as thankful for this life-changing experience. Heidi Oxentenko, a Physician Assistant Studies (PA) student, says the variety of experiences was her favorite part. She says, "We immersed ourselves in a whole different culture and really got to experience the Peruvian life. I was able to use the medical knowledge I've accumulated to actually make a difference in a few lives."

Erin Brophy, an Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD) student states her favorite parts of the trip were her encounters with people. She says, "I am so grateful to have been able to meet so many people with such a positive, uplifting spirit. We learned so much about what's important when interacting with other healthcare providers, such as how to do your job with or without a translator, and much more."

Serving Families in the Philippines

In March 2023 another group visited a wellness clinic in Pagudpud, Philippines to treat nearly 1,000 patients. The clinic is staffed by locals who live there year-round, but they welcome visitors from other countries to assist. In addition to seeing patients in the main clinic, the group went into the villages—which are called barangays—each day to bring medical care to those who can't easily get to the clinic.

Steve Carlson points out the trip created several interdisciplinary learning experiences, as students of different specialties learned from each other and alumni as they served patients together. An example of this is when PA students learned the basics of an ultrasound machine from a Kettering College alumna who now works as an ultrasound technician. Steve says there were so many educational moments such as this in the clinic and in the barangay clinics.



FEATURED

- 1 | A student checks a young girl's vital signs at a clinic in Peru.
- 2 | Peruvians line up at the clinic to be seen by Kettering College faculty and students.
- 3 | Student Erin Brophy plays with a toddler during a medical exam to test functions. (Photos 1-3 Credit: Steve Carlson)
- 4 | Student Taylor Klug examines a child who laughs at the feel of a blood pressure cup. (Photo Courtesy of Taylor Klug)
- 5 | Families in the Philippines visited the wellness clinic in Pagudpud. (Photo Credit: Paxton Scholl)
- 6 | Clinic medical staff and Kettering College students and faculty line up before a long day of running the clinic in the Philippines. (Photo Credit: Paxton Scholl)



The Impact of IMM Trips

Some students who attend an IMM trip haven't reached the level of serving patients yet in their education. They have studied intensely, memorizing important information, eager to use this to assist people. On the IMM trips, Steve notes repeatedly how students become revitalized and reminded about why they went into healthcare, as they see knowledge combined with compassion to create action.

They learn a new culture and are pushed to think critically as they work in a clinic with limited resources. They must balance the question of what they would do to best serve the patient with what they can actually do with what resources are available. Students often voice feeling both compassion and frustration on these trips as they come to terms with the fact that not everyone can be helped in the way the participants would like.

Paxton Scholl, a PA student, attended one of the IMM trips. She says, "It was one of the most amazing experiences I could have ever asked for. It was an amazing opportunity to immerse myself in a society that has very different medical practices than we are accustomed to in the U.S. I know this experience will be an incredible help when I encounter cultures here in the U.S. that have different views and protocols in regards to medical care."

Taylor Klug, a Nursing student says, "I learned to appreciate the little things in life, especially my family and friends, and to count my blessings. I saw so many amazing people with much fewer material possessions than I have, yet they were way more grateful and happy. This trip gave me a new and beautiful perspective on another culture that I will most definitely see in my practice, as well as made me more thankful for the healthcare system that we are blessed to be a part of."

Discomfort Creates Spiritual Growth

As the director of the IMM trips, Steve ensures the group gathers every morning for prayer and also every evening for a debrief and recap to navigate the emotions that often come with stepping outside of one's comfort zone. Participants have similar reflections on what the experience does within them as they process what they see each day.

In addition to checking in with students to hear about what they experienced and learned each day, Steve says he is sure to ask them, "What is all this telling you about yourself?" The group gets into discussions about values and self-awareness. He says, "Anytime we're uncomfortable, it forces us to ask ourselves bigger questions."

Personal and Professional Development

Steve notes the most meaningful moments for him on these trips occur as he witnesses the student growth that inevitably takes place. On every IMM trip, he begins to see students open up about what the trip is doing inside of them to heighten their self-awareness. He says, "Because this is such a strange situation for our students to be in, they start asking the bigger questions about life, God, faith, priorities, and sometimes even their professional goals."

Student Heidi Oxentencko agrees that she has grown as a person and professional as a result of this trip. She says, "It was really incredible to see the impact we made. Little experiences like providing an ultrasound for a patient who had received no prenatal care, praying with a woman who just needed someone to listen, and pulling teeth from kids who were excited to eat again all meant so much in Peru. We take simple hygiene and medical care for granted sometimes and it is truly incredible and humbling to see how thankful people who don't have those little things are for them when they receive them."

Student Erin Brophy encourages other students to attend, if they are able. She notes the experience was life-changing, which is a common sentiment expressed by students upon their return. Student Heidi Oxentencko says it was an opportunity well worth taking. She adds, "There is nothing more fulfilling than working for God, and once you've tried it, you'll be addicted in the best kind of way."

► Scan here to watch a video about Kettering College's IMM trips.





Kettering College Celebrates 2023 Graduates

55th Commencement Ceremonies Welcome Healthcare Professionals to Workforce

Kettering College held our 55th commencement ceremonies in April and July, with 54 degrees being conferred in April and 139 in July. The degrees being conferred included:

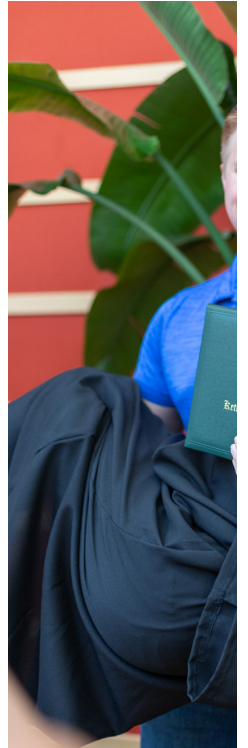
- Associate of Science in Radiologic Technology
- Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences
- Bachelor of Science in Human Biology
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Care
- Bachelor of Science in Sonography
- Doctorate of Occupational Therapy
- Master of Physician Assistant Studies

As is typical with any commencement ceremony, the students and faculty were excited, proud, and relieved to have reached such a momentous accomplishment after years of hard work and sacrifice, including having to adapt to restrictions brought on by a global pandemic.

Dr. Nate Brandstater, Kettering College president, welcomed the students by saying: "You came to us with a brilliant vision of your future, and a passion for making the world a better place. Your vision has seen beyond the great challenges of our time, including a global pandemic, economic and social disruptions, and conflicts all over the world."

He continued, "Healthcare has been recognized more clearly as a calling and that those who answer that call are heroes. Your passion for your future has taken you on a hero's journey. It has been transformational."

Dr. Savannah Bennington, an Occupational Therapy graduate, was one of the speakers. She addressed the graduates, saying, "I believe you as graduates were made for times such as this, and God has a plan for your impact on our world. Today begins the new start of a new chapter in our journey of life....One question I always ask myself, and I challenge you to ask yourself is, 'How do I want to write my story in this chapter?' ... As we continue into this new chapter, may we convey empathy, love boldly, share grace, extend hope, walk humbly, and be the light."





Heidi Oxentanko was the student speaker at the July ceremony where she received her master's degree in Physician Assistant Studies. She recounted starting college during COVID-19 and the camaraderie between students and the power of prayer from them and professors. She said, "We learned how to work under pressure and think on our feet, so we can confidently accept these degrees today. We know we will leave here as useful members of society, ready to serve."

Congratulations to all the graduates, and may God be with them as they answer the sacred call to serve others as healthcare professionals.

Photo Credit: Joel Granados, Rebecca Ingle, and Ariana Jervis



Student Empowers Cancer Patients

Jaime Testa, a Kettering College Healthcare Management student, turned a class assignment into a business venture that helps others. One of her marketing classes, taught by Dr. John Nunes, required her to create a business plan that could benefit her role in the Kettering Health Cancer Center.

She says, "It felt natural to incorporate my years of cosmetic experience into the project. That flowed into the idea of focusing on things that make us feel good as women, and sometimes those things are visually impacted by the cancer journey."

Jaime is a cancer survivor herself. She knows firsthand the feelings of helplessness that can come with a diagnosis. As an answer to this, she created the concept of Courageous Beauty, a class that would empower cancer patients and survivors with knowledge and tools to help them feel like themselves again.

She proposed the class idea to the Kettering Health Cancer Center service line, and they agreed to incorporate it into their offerings in 2022. Jaime looked to a licensed aesthetician to be the facilitator of the program and a team of community volunteers with cosmetic backgrounds to assist in the classes.



The two-hour Courageous Beauty class is often booked to capacity. It educates cancer patients on ways to help them continue to feel beautiful even during their fight against cancer. Jaime points out, "Everything patients know about their bodies can change overnight, from the texture of their skin to hair loss from medications and radiation." The class walks patients through those changes while offering camaraderie with others who understand the journey.

"It's okay to want to still feel beautiful even when you are also fighting for your health. Both can exist side by side," Jaime says. "The class is not about creating a fabulous Instagram-ready smokey eye. It's more like answering the question, 'What can I do when I roll out of bed, and I don't feel great?' Being able to do something like put on some eyeliner to feel like yourself gives you a piece of yourself again."



FEATURED

1, 2 | Dr. Robbins' grandmother (1) and aunt (2) graduated from Kettering College in the 1980s and enjoyed lucrative careers.

3 | Dr. Christine Robbins graduated in April with her doctorate in Occupational Therapy, continuing the Kettering College legacy in her family.



Kettering College: AN EDUCATION FOR ALL GENERATIONS

Dr. Christine Robbins graduated this April with her doctorate in Occupational Therapy. Both her grandmother and aunt are graduates of Kettering College. Her grandmother graduated from the Nursing program in 1980, and her aunt graduated from the Respiratory Care program in 1982. Her grandmother went on to be a nurse for 20 years, and her aunt is still working as a respiratory therapist.

She says knowing they attended here and had so many great things to say about the college was a big factor in her decision-making process. Both family members told Christine that Kettering College is an excellent school that helps prepare students for the working world. She says, "I received offers from each

university I applied to, but when I interviewed with Kettering College, I knew it was for me."

Like her grandmother and aunt, she also is happy with the education she has received here. She enjoyed the faith-based atmosphere with smaller classes. She says, "The faculty-to-student ratio allowed for a more personalized educational experience overall. The Occupational Therapy faculty are amazing and extremely supportive. I knew I could always go to them with academic challenges but also personal challenges I was facing."

Her grandmother and aunt are living proof that hard work at Kettering College can make career goals come true. It is now Dr. Robbins' turn to experience the same accomplishment.



Power Duo in Admissions Goes Above and Beyond

Bringing international students to Kettering College is not a new process; however, bringing them from a war zone was certainly uncharted territory. It was admittedly a daunting task faculty and staff have been willing to take on, following the lead of Nate Brandstater, president of Kettering College.

When the college learned Ukrainian students were interested in continuing their studies with us, President Brandstater reached out to Katrina Hill, director of Admissions, and explained his hope of transferring the students here with the help of everyone on staff. Hillary Allen, admission counselor, had been employed here only one month when she was charged with assisting in this important task. She smiles and says, "Nate felt we can do this, and we said we'd figure it out."

Finding New Ways Together

Students were coming from a country where official transcripts were now difficult to obtain and unable to be translated since vital Ukrainian offices were closed due to the Russian invasion. Nearly every international enrollment process had to be altered because of roadblocks.

Ukrainian men were not allowed to leave their country unless they were students, so border patrol needed additional documentation to prove these students should be granted permission to leave their country. Students were unable to be tested in English in their country because the centers were shut down, so they had to travel to other countries to complete the tests.

In addition to relying on each other and a variety of other people, Katrina and Hillary note they relied



heavily on the Ukrainian students. Katrina observes, "So much persistence was needed from the students to get things done. They had to travel to different countries to meet with embassies, and they did it." Although students were scared and anxious dealing with the trauma of war and leaving their families, they did not give up. Hillary says, "They were excited, willing, and determined to make this work. Often their email replies would say they weren't worried because they knew God's plan was big for them."

Moving Forward in Faith

Each day presented new obstacles to Hillary and Katrina in safely bringing the students here. There was no roadmap—just a goal and a campus-wide willingness to make it happen. Everyone involved learned to expect the unexpected. Every morning, the duo in Admissions would meet to share their progress, try something new, and end the meeting by praying together to ask for help and guidance.

Katrina says, "God had to have had a hand in this because there were so many odds stacked against us. One day we would hit a wall and be stuck, and the next day the obstacle was inexplicably removed. There was a lot of rejoicing in our daily meetings." The women say that happened repeatedly to refuel their energy and hope and keep them focused.

Ukrainian Students Arrive

Twenty-four Ukrainian students arrived in August of 2022 to begin the fall semester at Kettering College. The process to get them here took nearly six months. The last two weeks before the students arrived, Hillary and Katrina admit they were running on adrenaline as this vision started to come into focus. Hillary beams when she says, "Seeing them here is so rewarding! The week before they arrived, I was sending out final emails to them, and reality set in that we would finally meet in person."

Katrina shakes her head in disbelief and says, "This all started from a place of not knowing anything to now having the students here. The whole ordeal has been a blessing. Nate said yes to this initiative, and he, and others, have been there every step of the way to assist."

The next ten Ukrainian students arrived in January 2023 for the winter semester.

Katrina and Hillary's hard work, prayers, and persistence took an idea and turned it into changing the lives of students whose education and lives have been disrupted by war.

Now that the students are on campus, Student Affairs, Student Success, and professors continue to surround them with the same sort of innovative and creative thinking Hillary and Katrina drew upon at the beginning of this initiative. We are blessed to have a campus that feels like a family who collaborates and welcomes challenges to help us grow and serve others.



Leaving a Lasting Legacy

Three professors retire after touching many lives

Kettering College alumni often say one of the most impactful parts of their experience here was their interactions with professors. Our smaller class sizes allow our professors to truly know and care for their students. They teach future healthcare professionals by modeling a strong work ethic, dedication, and compassion for their work.

We have three professors who retired this academic year who have left an enduring impression on both hearts and minds. As they move on to the next stage of their lives, we thank them for the legacy they are leaving with our students and our entire family.

Dr. Cynthia Parker

Dr. Parker was a part of Kettering College for 23 years. She worked in the Nursing division as a clinical instructor and professor. Dr. Paula Reams, dean of Nursing, says, "When Cynthia Parker talks, people listen." Dr. Adelaide Durkin, associate professor of Nursing, remembers what a calming presence Dr. Parker brought to her work. She says, "I have not heard one single negative comment ever about Cynthia or from Cynthia. She is a wonderful Christian woman and friend." Marisa Blahovich, associate professor of Nursing, looked to Dr. Parker as a mentor. She recalls, "Her caring and calm spirit has been an inspiration. She will be dearly missed by all her colleagues." Dr. Parker has agreed to continue as an adjunct instructor.

Alisa French

Alisa French received her Associate of Science degree in Respiratory Care in 1981 from Kettering College and practiced respiratory therapy for over thirty years. She was an associate professor and director of Respiratory Care, a role she held for nearly two decades. Dr. Scott Bennie, dean of Academic Affairs, admires how Alisa led the program with "patience, grace, and a love for her students and colleagues." He says, "She consistently reflected the Christ-centered mission of the college and will be missed by her students, colleagues, clinical community, and me." Hope Appelbaum, associate professor in Respiratory Care, says, "I have enjoyed every day with Alisa. We've become close friends, and I will miss seeing her every day, but our friendship will continue and be treasured outside the college environment."

Dr. Cynthia Hammond

Dr. Hammond was with Kettering College a short period of time but has made her mark on the college and division of Nursing. She came in December of 2019 from Alabama with experience in healthcare leadership. She will be especially remembered for her innovative teaching during COVID-19 and her work on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) committee, which won her a leadership award. Adam Brown, dean of Student Success, notes that "Cynthia is such an authentic and caring person. I remember when she shared her experiences during a DEI meeting. She was so transparent about what she had been through and how it impacted her life. Most of all, she shared how her experiences helped shape her belief that God calls us to help everyone. She led us to think about our stories and how we could be more affirming and loving to each other and our students. We are going to greatly miss Cynthia. She challenged us to be better!"





Faculty and Staff Recognition



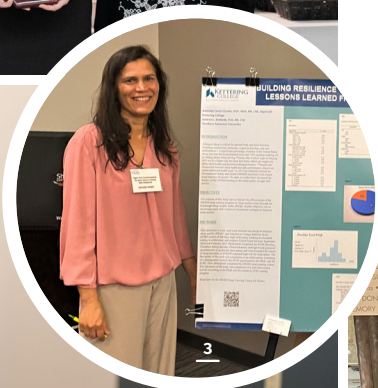
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Dr. Elizabeth Golba, Health Sciences associate professor, earned a Doctorate of Education in Leadership for Organizations (EdD) from the University of Dayton. Dr. Golba says, "I pursued this degree to continue my growth as a leader at Kettering College and to advance my knowledge in management and leadership. Following my EdD, my goals in my teaching career are to continue to be the best I can be as an educator for my students by providing in-depth knowledge and understanding to advance my students to new frontiers of learning."

Katherine Ferrell, Nursing assistant professor, graduated from Kettering College in 2016 and returned over a year ago to teach at her alma mater. Her dedicated work, leadership, and accomplishments were recently recognized as she earned the Distinguished Alumni Award at our Homecoming weekend. Her nomination commended her positive attitude, passion for the material, and her desire to help others.

The collaborative research of Dr. Justina Or, Humanities assistant professor, has been published by Adult Learning. This is the fourth publication her work has been featured in since joining Kettering College. Her recent research article is called *Fostering Intercultural Effectiveness and Cultural Humility in Adult Learners Through Collaborative Online International Learning*. She and Dr. Elizabeth Golba presented their work for an additional research article at an international conference this summer.

Dr. Adelaide Durkin, Nursing associate professor, presented her research project at an event for the honor society of nursing. Her work is called *Building Resilience through Sleep Health Education: Lessons Learned from a Web-based Intervention*. Additionally, her collaborative research on the prevention of diabetes was published by American College of Lifestyle Medicine.

FEATURED

1 | Dr. Elizabeth Golba earned a Doctorate of Education in Leadership for Organizations from the University of Dayton this academic year.

2 | Alumna Katherine Ferrell earned the Distinguished Alumni award. (Photo Credit: Rebecca Ingle)

3 | Dr. Adelaide Durkin presented her research to the nursing honor society.

4 | Dr. Justina Or has collaborated on several academic articles that have been published.

5 | Pictured left to right—Randi Quale earned a Faculty Excellence award. Drew Kistler earned a Campus Impact award. Courtney Sewell earned a Staff Excellence award. (Photo Credit: Rebecca Ingle)

This year's Faculty and Staff Excellence awards were presented at General Assembly. The recipients are as follows:

Randi Quale, Sciences & Mathematics associate professor and associate dean of Assessment and Accreditation, received the Faculty Excellence award. Her nominations noted her hard work in the accreditation process while balancing that with her regular teaching schedule. Randi's nominees commended her for "being the definition of stability and dependability," and her constant willingness to be helpful and root for the success of our students.

Drew Kistler, Information Technology workstation administrator, received the Campus Impact award for being readily available for troubleshooting technology. His nominations noted he maintains a positive attitude as he

works through even the most frustrating tech issues. Drew received this award to acknowledge his responsiveness, knowledge, and dedication to following up to make sure our campus runs smoothly at all times.

Courtney Sewell, Nursing office assistant and Student Success coach, received the Staff Excellence award, not only for her work in building the framework for Student Success coaches but also for her expertise and organization in the Nursing division. Her nominations applauded her upbeat personality and warmth that comes with a contagious laugh and the fact that she "is always thinking of ways to creatively ensure our students are successful."



Ponitz Pipeline: Breaking Down Barriers



Helping high-school students see themselves as future healthcare professionals

In 2006, Dr. Susan Price, current Sonography chair and professor, teamed up with Ponitz Career Technology Center in Dayton to build a communication pipeline between Kettering College, Kettering Health, and the school to mentor, nurture, and counsel students toward becoming healthcare professionals.

Seventeen years later, Dr. Price's vision has grown into a flourishing program known as Ponitz Pipeline. It has proven to be a meaningful resource not only for Ponitz students but also for Kettering Health, which has gained several exceptional employees from the program's graduates. The pipeline pairs career counseling with mentoring of life skills such as email and interview skills, balancing a budget, and being organized.



Students Find Their Way

Pam Wilson, site and clinical coordinator in the Occupational Therapy department, is the current Ponitz Pipeline coordinator. She holds the students in the program close to her heart and listens to their dreams carefully. She explains, "We guide them by sharing knowledge, skills, resources, and expertise. Awareness is at the core of everything we do. We make them aware of academic programs at Kettering College that sometimes they had never heard of. They don't know

what they don't know."

Once students commit to staying in the Allied Health program, Pam starts the process of pairing them with a mentor who serves as an example of what the student is striving towards. She says students are eager for direction, and they invest themselves in the process. The program teaches them to be accountable for their success and reminds them of their worth and abilities.





Breaking Down Barriers

Pam is animated as she talks about how crucial the program is in arming students with knowledge. She says, “They get to meet students, professors, and medical professionals who look like them to explain how they got to where they are. By hearing about others’ journeys, students begin to visualize themselves doing the same thing. This is so powerful – We are breaking down barriers in our own backyard.”

Pam emphasizes the pipeline is a team effort, where everyone involved contributes their expertise to help grow, guide, and encourage the Ponitz students. The intent is to take obstacles out of the way that can make the process overwhelming and show students, with hard work and determination, this career path is possible.

Ponitz Pipeline Success Story

There are several success stories of students discovering rewarding careers in healthcare as a result of the Ponitz Pipeline. Ponitz graduate Ranasia Sims is one of them. With her focus set on reaching her goals, she is proving that she is unstoppable.

She was accepted into the Allied Health program at Ponitz and soon began to meet with various mentors from Kettering College who listened to her, cheered for her, and instilled her with a belief in herself to keep going. While attending Ponitz, she started taking college courses and graduated high school with 22 college credits, giving her a head start on her career goal of becoming a nurse.

Focused on the Future

As soon as she applied for jobs, Ranasia received several calls for interviews but ultimately decided on accepting a nursing assistant position with Kettering Health Dayton. She says she likes serving patients in her own community where she’s close to family.

She works a 12-hour night shift on the cardiovascular floor, and says, “I love helping people. Yes, it’s hard work, and I never know what to expect, but I love leaving my job at the end of my shift knowing I’m doing what I am meant to do.”

She adds, “I want to be the person who can say she made something happen for her family.” She tells her five brothers they can be whatever they want to be. What’s more impressive is she shows them by tackling her own dreams with such focus, grit, and maturity at only 19 years of age.

She is grateful for the guidance she received through the Ponitz Pipeline and would like to return to be a guest speaker one day to motivate others the way she was motivated. She says, “Sometimes you need help to know what’s out there and what you can accomplish.”



FEATURED

- 1 | Ranasia Sims, nursing assistant, thrived at Ponitz and is reaching her dreams.
- 2 | Students from the Ponitz Pipeline tour Kettering College’s Nursing simulation lab.
- 3, 4 | Ponitz Pipeline students enjoy a field trip to Kettering Health Dayton to learn new skills.
- 5 | Danielle Brown, Kettering College alumna and Kettering Health employee, speaks to students to encourage them to work hard. (Photo Credit: Pam Wilson)

Nursing Student Empowers Youth

Danielle Brown graduated from the Kettering College Nursing program in July 2023 and was inducted into the prestigious nursing international honor society. She recently spoke to Ponitz students about how to find the right college to match their goals and how to stay focused when the process becomes overwhelming.

The students were fully engaged as Danielle spoke and fielded their questions. She gave advice on how to make the successful transition from a high school student with dreams and ambitions to a college student and graduate who has fulfilled those dreams and ambitions. The group talked about what it takes to stay motivated through inevitable challenging experiences in life.

The Ponitz Pipeline program was created to build into students interested in healthcare and show them options and resources for their future. Pam Wilson notes she intentionally searches for speakers whom the students will believe and trust. She says, “I continue to seek out students from the community who chose Kettering College. It’s important that students see and relate with someone who looks like them. This can help them ignite their dreams and aspirations.”

Who better to tell students it is possible than someone who is living proof that it is?

Interprofessional Simulation Events: Students Teaching Students



Our students get hands-on experience in clinical labs, so they can confidently move into professional healthcare careers after graduation. They learn from instructors who are experts in their fields, but they also learn from each other at interprofessional education (IPE) events where students from different areas of study share knowledge and experiences.

Respiratory Care (RT) held two separate IPE days in the labs—one for Physician Assistant Studies (PA) students and the other for Occupational Therapy doctoral (OTD) students. Along with faculty, senior RT students provided instruction on different respiratory modalities, such as tracheostomy tubes, CPAP and BiPAP devices, ventilator management, and oxygen therapy.

Simulating Real Life

The IPE simulation events were held in the respiratory lab and the IPE lab. Activities were created to mimic real-life situations, bringing didactic learning to life for the students. Alisa French, RT chair and associate professor, says, "The departments collaborated to create a safe, supportive learning environment for our students to explore and learn about non-invasive and invasive mechanical ventilation."

Chioma Lindo, assistant professor of Occupational Therapy, says, "RT students had a chance to educate about their profession and were introduced to occupational therapy. The stations allowed RT students to teach and OTD students to gain insight into ways to care for a patient with respiratory needs."

Implementing Skills Through Teamwork

Hope Appelbaum, RT associate professor, says, "The most important aspect of this event is the interprofessional team building. All students understand that taking care of the 'whole person' is a team effort."

The simulation events prepare students to step outside their comfort zones of knowledge and rely on others to help the team

resolve issues. Professor Lindo says, "Faculty understand that the hands-on learning experience before going on fieldwork is invaluable for students. And while they have lab-based intervention courses throughout the entire curriculum, this lab brings together the knowledge from all parts of the curriculum, emphasizing synthesis."

Professor Appelbaum says, "The RT students also have the opportunity to increase their leadership skills, as they are the 'expert' facilitating the education and answering any questions that arise. Students got firsthand information on how to safely and effectively care for the respiratory patient, which may not have been covered as in depth as the topics are covered in this skills lab."

IPE Learning is Essential

Professor French explains the importance of interprofessional education: "As RT students prepare and deliver cross-disciplinary education, this enhances knowledge and critical thinking skills for both the presenter and the learner and helps prepare students to work with various populations. Collaborations among professions improve understanding of other disciplines and help develop self-confidence and leadership skills."

Students begin to see the importance of learning from each other to best serve patients. Jill-Renae Gluczinski, Physician Assistant Studies associate professor, says, "This type of interprofessional learning helps to foster relationships that the future providers can carry into clinical practice and helps both professions feel more confident about interacting with one another in the care of patients."

IPE simulation events encourage collaboration and peer-to-peer learning. By simulating real-life scenarios, students begin to build confidence and familiarity, so this is already built into them when they become healthcare professionals. Students experience the skills they're learning in a controlled environment, so if mistakes are made, no patient is harmed, and the experience has helped them advance their skills, knowledge, and confidence.

FEATURED

1 | OTD professor Chioma Lindo reviews the day's events with students.

2 | A senior RT student teaches an OTD student about tracheostomy tubes.

3 | An OTD student learns tools to best care for a respiratory patient from senior RT students.



Transfer Program Welcomes Canadian Cohorts

Kettering College welcomes international students every year to study and enrich our campus with diversity, and we continue to look for ways to build these relationships across borders. To help support this vision, in 2018 Kettering College joined a transfer partnership with Burman University, a Seventh-day Adventist university in Canada.



"I know that when I graduate, I will be a competent nurse because of the way Kettering College structures its program." — Anya Barrett

Students in the Nursing program at Burman complete their prerequisites there for three semesters and transfer here for two years of full-time study. They first earn a certificate in Health Sciences before continuing their Nursing core curriculum and clinicals at Kettering College. Once students graduate, they are able to become a licensed nurse in either Canada or the States.

Tiniel Parredon, enrollment manager at Burman says the program has proven to be beneficial to their students. She notes, "Students get the chance to experience two different cultures without having to travel too far from home. This allows a nice transition for our Canadian students to stay close to home for the first year before they transition into college life away from home."

She adds the opportunity to affordably obtain an American degree is valuable to students with an interest in being a travel nurse or having the option of working in either location, thanks to the international partnership between Burman University and Kettering College.

Since the program's inception, nine Burman transfer Nursing students have graduated from Kettering College, and six are currently enrolled. Current Burman transfer students work with Nursing faculty who advise all international nursing students to make sure they're on track and getting all their questions answered about their classes or anything that arises from being in a different country.

Trying new things entails a learning curve, and this international pipeline is no different. Jessica Beans, associate dean of Enrollment and Communication at Kettering College, continues to work with others here and at Burman to improve the program and streamline the processes. She says, "We know transitioning between a university in Canada and the United States can be complicated with the international student

paperwork, but we are striving to improve this process, as we continue to learn how to best support our Canadian students coming to Ohio through this partnership."

Since its inception, both institutions have created the innovative program without a previous model to follow, learning as the years have progressed. There are now monthly meetings between both institutions that include departments such as Admissions, Records, and Enrollment to further streamline the transfer process and maintain lines of communication for best practices.

One recent addition to the program has been to focus on introducing current pre-Nursing students at Burman to our Kettering College team via a virtual information session. Jessica says, "This early introduction is an effort to connect Burman students sooner than ever before, so that they can be sure to finish up strong at Burman and know who to work with at Kettering College long before the process starts."

Anya Barrett is a transfer student from Burman who admits coming to another country without knowing anyone was daunting at first, but she's happy she made this decision. She says, "The courses are challenging and push me always to do my best. I know that when I graduate, I will be a competent nurse because of the way Kettering College structures its program."

She adds, "We are so blessed to be a part of the Kettering Health system because it allows us to get hands-on experience early in our schooling. I appreciate that we can apply what we learn almost immediately so that by the end, nothing feels like it is brand new."

From Canada to Ohio, we are grateful these students decided to study with us, and we look forward to seeing how they touch the world.



FEATURED

1, 3 | Kettering College and Burman University in Canada, both Adventist institutions, work together to offer Canadian Nursing students a unique college experience.

2 | Anya Barrett transferred to Kettering College from Burman University and is excited to see where her future takes her.

Letter from Director of Alumni Mindi Collins

Warm greetings from your alma mater! It gives me great pleasure to reconnect with you, our alumni, and share the latest news and updates from Kettering College.

First and foremost, I want to express our heartfelt gratitude for your invaluable contributions to KC. Your journey and accomplishments since leaving our campus serve as a testament to the excellence of our education. We take so much pride in your achievements, and we believe that you are a true example of our institution's values.

I am delighted to inform you that we have made significant progress in various areas. We launched our Alumni Resource page. The page has been designed to connect you with a range of tools and opportunities that can help you achieve success in your professional journeys. You can check this page out at:

kc.edu/alumni/alumni-resources/

Additionally, to enhance connectivity, we have relocated the alumni Facebook page to a group page. This group page is customized for you, where you can connect, network, and exchange valuable advice with your fellow alumni. It's also a great way to stay informed about the events and activities of your beloved alma mater. Join our group page called "Kettering College Alumni" today.

Finally, after the successful launch last year of a weekend event designed to bring each other together, we have set the dates for our next Alumni Reunion Weekend. Join us this year October 21-22, 2023 to reconnect with your alma mater, catch up with old classmates, and discover the exciting developments at KC.

I would like to encourage you to update your contact information and professional details through our contact page linked on our website or by reaching out to me directly. By doing so, you will enable us to keep you informed about the latest developments at KC and invite you to events and opportunities to engage with us. Email your updated information to alumni@kc.edu

Once again, I express my deepest appreciation for your continued support and engagement with KC. We are proud to count you as part of our alumni family, and we eagerly look forward to your active participation in our future endeavors.

Wishing you every success in your personal and professional pursuits.

Warm Regards,

Mindi Collins



NEW GRAD NIGHT

The Alumni Association and Career Services hosted New Grad Night at the Dragons Lair in the Day Air Ballpark for an exciting game. It was a fun evening where faculty, staff, and alumni came together to celebrate our recent graduates, eat great food, and watch an entertaining game. This special event gives us the opportunity to welcome all our new grads into the Alumni Association.

A noteworthy mention goes out to Kassandra Wilson, who represented Kettering College and had the honor of throwing the first pitch. Kassandra, the recipient of the George B. Nelson award, achieved her Associate degree of Science in Radiologic Technology. Follow us on social media to find out when the 2024 New Grad Night will be, so you can join the fun.





Kettering College Holds Inaugural Homecoming Weekend

This academic year Kettering College held our inaugural Homecoming weekend to welcome back alumni and reconnect with them.

Mindi Collins, director of Alumni Relations, reports alumni from the 1970s – 2021 attended events throughout the weekend, updating us on their careers and retirements. Several of these same alumni give back to our college by being scholarship donors.

After Friday night's food truck kickoff event, alumni joined us Saturday morning for a Sabbath service at the Kettering Seventh-day Adventist church. Alumni led worship and shared testimonies of their experiences from international medical missions (IMM) trips they participated in while studying with us.

Steve Carlson, director of Campus Ministries, introduced the alumni panel and led the discussion. They testified the trips forever changed them as students moving into professional careers of service. All the alumni agreed they felt God called them to do those trips, and they encourage all current students to go on an IMM trip.

Following the service, a special luncheon and tea was held in the Anna May Café on campus where Nate Brandstater, president, offered up some Kettering College trivia to alumni and current faculty and staff. Photographs and yearbooks from the past were on display at the luncheon, so alumni could reminisce and share their memories of Kettering College.

To end Homecoming weekend on Saturday night, Kettering Health Foundation hosted our annual Scholarship Reception and Dinner to celebrate all scholarship donors and student recipients. Tina Howard, giving officer, says, "Donors were able to meet their scholarship recipients and talk with them about their educational experiences and career aspirations. Scholarship recipients were honored to meet their donors and thank them in person."

The dinner was held in the newly renovated auditorium, with approximately 100 in attendance. Tina says, "The donors were very impressed with all our renovations throughout the college and with our outstanding students."

Mindi Collins says, "We had a wonderful time celebrating 55 years of Kettering College! We look forward to seeing our amazing alumni again next year!"

FEATURED

1 | President Nate Brandstater catches up with alumnae before showing them recent renovations inside.

2 | Alumni and Steve Carlson led a discussion about international medical missions trips at the weekend's Sabbath service. (Photo Credit: Rebecca Ingle)

3 | To end Homecoming, current students and alumni gathered in our new auditorium for dinner. (Photo Credit: Courtney Dove)

4 | Scholarship recipients had the opportunity to meet their donors and thank them in person. (Photo Credit: Rebecca Ingle)





Alumna Creates Program to Honor Veterans



“When we are given the opportunity to care for those who are passing, we are permitted into a very sacred and spiritual space for the patient as well as their families.” —Erica Caserta



Erica Caserta, RN, is an alumna of Kettering College and is now working at Kettering Health Main Campus in the Coronary Care Unit (CCU). She is an Air Force veteran who has created a way for patients who are veterans to be celebrated and for their families to feel a sense of peace and extra care.

Erica explains that caring for any patient is an honor, but while she was caring for a Vietnam vet, she felt a nudge to do something more to show his family and him respect and gratitude during this difficult time. She asked her husband, who is also a veteran, to bring an American flag to her at work. When the patient's family was out of the room, Erica placed it on the patient's body to honor him for his sacrifices.

When the family returned, they were emotional and grateful for the gesture as the veteran passed away. Erica quietly continued to do this to recognize veterans in the CCU. Her coworkers brought it to the attention of leadership, and, as a result, Kettering Health now has a program that provides flags for veterans who are passing.

Erica explains that creating the program felt natural. She says, “I strive to keep my patients and their families comforted as much as possible during the end-of-life process. When we are given the opportunity to care for those who are passing, we are permitted into a very sacred and spiritual space for the patient as well as their families.”

Erica credits her education at Kettering College for allowing her to be comfortable to go the extra step to care for her patients. She says, “Going to Kettering College prepared me for bedside nursing by allowing me to explore and implement my own spirituality and faith into my care. Covid hit shortly after I graduated, and the unit I worked on became the Covid ICU. Unfortunately, I had to get comfortable with death pretty quickly. Leaning on my faith for myself and my patients was vital during this time.”

Photo credit: Kettering Health Marketing and Communications Department



1970s

Dr. Dee Morris, 1979 Physician Assistant Studies, is the coordinator of the Allied Health program at Cedarville University and teaches in that department.

1990s

Gregory Martindill, 1992 Physician Assistant Studies, is pursuing an agriculture degree.

2000s

Gregory Maddox, 2003 Physician Assistant Studies, moved from Waverly, Virginia to Wellsville, Pennsylvania.

Datwana Gaddis, 2004 Nursing, moved from Portland, Oregon to Lincoln, Nebraska.

Jennifer Buchholz, 2005 Nursing, was a cardiac catheterization (cath) lab team lead at Soin Medical Center and is now a cath lab manager.

2010s

Annette Powers-Kilburn, 2011 Nursing, was a lead nurse at Benchmark Human Services and is now manager of Health Services there.

Jessica Deitz, 2014 Nursing, was an ICU nurse in the Air Force and is now an ER Staff Nurse in Mount Lookout, West Virginia.

Lauren (Rammel) Sarita, 2018 Human Biology, is a neurosurgery physician assistant.

Michelle Breitenstein, 2019 Nursing, moved from Centerville, Ohio to Leesburg, Florida.



GIVING DAY:

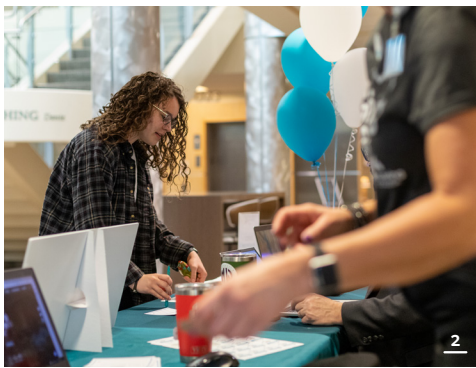
Supporting Future Healthcare Professionals



Giving Day is a 24-hour fundraising event to help support current students reach their healthcare career goals. Faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends of the college are asked to give, no matter the size of the gift. The gifts from Giving Day make an impact on the lives of our students to help continue to advance healthcare in our region.

This year's Giving Day was a success, according to Tina Howard, giving officer. She says, "While we didn't reach our goal of 200 donors, we did, however, surpass last year's number of donors. We raised \$38,340, which is about 25% more than last year."

Mindi Collins, director of Alumni Relations, says, "The 2023 Kettering College Giving Day proved to be a success! It was a fantastic occasion where faculty, staff, alumni, and friends came together as a community to contribute towards scholarships and funds that aid our students. It's truly inspiring to realize that this event and the funds collected will have a positive impact on the students who aspire to become tomorrow's caregivers."



The top funds for gifts were:

- **Student Assistance:**
27 gifts, totaling \$4,990
- **General Scholarship:**
20 gifts, totaling \$3,260
- **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:**
16 gifts, totaling \$4,675
- **Ukrainian Student Fund:**
12 gifts, totaling \$1,980
- **Non-Specified Funds:**
11 gifts, totaling \$7,395

There were 43 faculty/staff donors, 23 alumni donors, and 26 new donors this year.

Tina and her team added a new "Pie a Professor" event to this year's Giving Day. Donors were given the chance to show willing faculty and staff members how much they appreciate them by delivering a pie to their face.

Kettering College Nursing student and tutor, Amanda Mathey, was a donor at Giving Day. She says, "Being at Giving Day really put into perspective just how many people are involved in keeping Kettering College running! As a student, I underestimate how much goes into my college. I was moved to give because being in that room with faculty and staff helped me realize I'm part of a bigger community here, and I want to help contribute to the future success of our "village" with what little I have to give."

Thanks to everyone who participated to show support to our students and the college we all love.



FEATURED

1 | Tina Howard welcomes donors to Giving Day 2023.

2 | Nursing student Amanda Mathey steps up to give back to other students.

3 | Nate Brandstater, president, sits with staff from Enrollment Services and Student Affairs as the event begins.

4 | John Nunes, Steve Carlson, and Adam Brown brace themselves for the "Pie a Professor" event.



Donor Spotlight: David H. MacDonald



FEATURED

1 | David H. MacDonald enjoyed a long career as a professor of plant pathology at the University of Minnesota.

2 | Professor MacDonald set up a scholarship that assists deserving Kettering College PA students reach their goals. (Photos courtesy of David's family)

David H. MacDonald's story is a wonderful reminder that we never know how our service to others will impact them and their families. David saw the exceptional care his family received from Kettering Health and was moved to establish a scholarship for Kettering College students before he passed away.

David enjoyed a long career as a professor of plant pathology at the University of Minnesota. He devoted some time to research during his career, but his life's work was focused on teaching. Education was something he held closely to his heart.

As he aged, his health presented obstacles, and he and his family were always grateful when they had positive healthcare encounters. His family says there were two physician assistants (PAs) in Minnesota who made profound impressions on him as his health declined.

Since education is something Professor MacDonald held in high regard, he started to consider establishing a scholarship specifically for students studying to become PAs. He wanted to help ensure aspiring healthcare professionals could receive financial assistance to remove that barrier.



Although Professor MacDonald lived in Minnesota, he had family in the Kettering area. Throughout the years, he came here to help family as they faced surgeries and recovery at Kettering Health. He was so impressed by the hospital and the care his family received that he even looked into having his hip replaced here instead of back home in Minnesota.

As he spent time with family here and saw the personalized care they received at Kettering Health, he decided he would establish a scholarship in honor of his commitment to education. With the help of the Kettering Foundation, he and his family created a scholarship that will help students studying to be PAs at Kettering College.

It was Professor MacDonald's wish for the scholarship to persist to help students for years to come. It was his vision to help make the path to becoming a PA easier for deserving students whom he has never even met. Through his own experiences, he witnessed the importance of excellent healthcare providers, and now his spirit will be a part of this continuing legacy.

We honor the memory of David H. MacDonald and thank him for believing in our students.

Interested in Giving Back?

If you are interested in making an impact on the lives of our students, contact Tina Howard, giving officer, at (937) 395-8607, tina.howard@kc.edu, or visit kc.edu/giving

Introducing the New Faces of Kettering

We welcome these faculty
and staff members to our family!



Janice Cosme, MS

Admissions Counselor
Enrollment Services



Ariana Jarvis, BA

Communications Specialist
Public Relations & Marketing



Heather Jones

Administrative Assistant II
Academic Affairs



Mia Pomales, MA

Instructional Technologist
Information Technology



Kristin Dorsey, MS

Assistant Professor
Mathematics & Sciences



Joshua Hamilton, MD

Medical Director
Respiratory Care



Johnjé Jasper, BSN

Program & Data Collection Coordinator
Community Health Worker Training Program



Brittany Seeger, MEd

Student Success Coach
Student Success



Eric Scott, DMin

Assistant Professor
Humanities & Social Sciences



Dustin Waters, EdS

Director of Student Success
Student Success



NOTEWORTHY MOVES



Dr. Susan Aebker is a professor in Occupational Therapy and has added the role of academic fieldwork coordinator in that department.



Hope Appelbaum is an associate professor in Respiratory Care and is now also the chair of that department.



Dr. Michael Davis-Cheshire moved from associate professor to professor in Occupational Therapy.



Bekki Gardner moved from resource administrative assistant to office assistant in Physician Assistant Studies.



Dr. Elizabeth Golba moved from associate professor to professor in Health Sciences.



Dr. Shanese Higgins moved from associate professor to professor in Occupational Therapy.



Nick Johnston is an assistant professor in Respiratory Care and has added the role of director of clinical education in that department.



Dr. Danielle McPeck is an assistant professor in Occupational Therapy and has added the role of doctoral capstone coordinator in that department.



Dr. Nicole Orian is a professor in Nursing and is now also the chair of graduate Nursing programs.



Dr. Taryn Talbott moved from associate professor to professor in Online Learning & Continuing Education.



Dr. Cory Wetterlin moved from assistant professor to associate professor in Humanities.

Social Media Snapshots




Jennifer Cova is with Gabby Decaestecker.
May 7 · 🌐

I could not be prouder of this girl on the eve of her new chapter of professional school at Kettering College Physician Assistant Program! I have seen her persevere academically on this incredibly competitive journey and ALSO was able to work with her EVERY day as my right hand lead medical assistant for the past 18 months! I am sad you won't be there tomorrow but know you are upward and onward to so much success!! I love you so much and the best is yet to come!!!!!!

 70


21 comments







Nicholas Henson
Accomplished Treasurer &...
2d · 🌐

Dr. Nunes thank-you for sharing your story. Keep up the great work.



Dr. John Nunes: A Man on a Journey - Kettering College
kc.edu · 3 min read

 5

3 comments



Benjamin Hotelling, M.S.
Associate Dean Of Student Success at Kettering College
3w · 🌐

Spent time today as a team with an impromptu learning from [Dustin Waters](#) on his travel experiences to North Korea. Absolutely fascinating and enlightening!



 John Nunes, PhD and 19 others




Tuta Ionescu
Program Director, Radiologic Sciences and Imaging
8mo · 🌐

Happy Radiologic Technology Week to all the awesome radiographers who make a difference!




 40

2 comments



Ashley Neu
Director of Career Services & Student Development

The future of healthcare! Proud of our Kettering College Nursing students who interviewed at our Kettering Health Hiring Event today. Excited to continue to watch them grow in their careers.



 32

1 comment



spartacus_080
Kettering College



39 likes

spartacus_080 Hung out at @ketteringcollege today for a Therapy Dog visit for Wellness Wednesday. It was super amazing 😊

#therapydog #therapydogs #therapy #wellness

 39 likes



cheverelf



12 likes

cheverelf Thank you @ketteringcollege for inviting us to your Winter Formal this past weekend!!!! The energy everyone brought on the dance floor was amazing and next time we will be ready for those formal pictures! #prompose

 12 likes




lauren.cordonnier
Kettering College



Liked by ketteringcollege and 347 others


lauren.cordonnier Sonographers in the making

 347 likes




Kelley King WDTN
5d · 🌐

Kettering College is working to fill the need for healthcare workers here in the Miami Valley. [KaJeza Hawkins](#) walks us through the new training program they've launched.



wdtn.com

Kettering College introduces Community Health Workers Training Program

 7



Kettering College is at Ollie Davis Medical Arts & Education Center.

Occupational Therapy is a contender for "most fun looking learning labs."



 Tuta Ionescu and 22 others


4 shares



The Foodbank, Inc.
Sep 21, 2022 · 🌐

A huge thanks to these [#HungerHeroes](#) from [Kettering College](#) who came out to The Foodbank yesterday to volunteer as part of their annual community service day! After touring our warehouse facility and urban garden area, these hardworking volunteers harvested over 100 heads of lettuce from our hydroponic greenhouse, cleaned out some of our tomato beds to get them ready for the end of the season, and did some landscaping work near the front entrance of our garden!



 15

4 comments · 1 share




Kettering College PA Program is at Kettering College.
Jun 6 · Kettering · 🌐

Never seen someone with a splint look so happy!

#SplintingDay2023 #kcpaprogram #hiopastudent

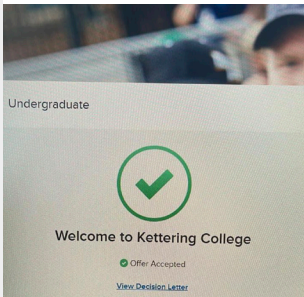




 16



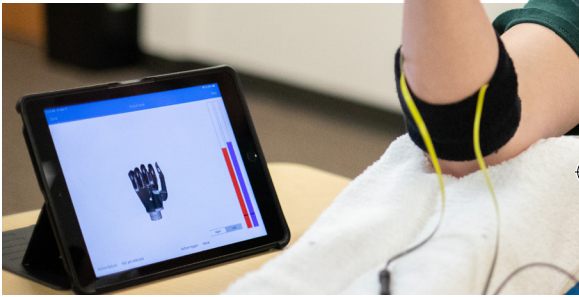
Kaliegh Thiebeau
Apr 26 · 🌐

I was ACCEPTED into Kettering College and I've never been so happy 😊



 49

11 shares





FEATURED

1 | Laura Kosch, Disability Services director and Title IX coordinator, tells a group of potential students about Title IX services on our campus.

2 | Two students enjoy some pet therapy with a miniature horse on Wellness Wednesdays which were created by Emily Cowell, associate director of Student Life and Activities. (Photo Credit: Emily Cowell)

3 | President Nate Brandstater summons his inner Buddy the Elf to help students make it through the final stretch of exams before Christmas. (Photo Credit: Ben Hotelling)

4 | Current students tell a potential student about Kettering College at an Explore Kettering event.

5 | Students had a great time at our first-ever Winter Formal dance.

6 | Marisa Blahovich, Nursing associate professor, inducts Nursing students Joy Jackson (pictured left) and Daniele Brown (pictured right) into the Sigma Theta Tau Nursing Honor Society.

7 | Sonography students, faculty, and Kettering College leadership surprise a student to congratulate him on becoming a U.S. citizen.

8 | An Occupational Therapy student learns how to train a patient to operate a myoelectric prosthetic hand.

9 | Nursing students take a break and play outside in between classes.

10 | A Nursing student works in the microlab.

11 | A Respiratory Care student listens as her professor asks questions about a ventilator.



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Save the Dates!

Alumni Reunion Weekend: October 21-22, 2023

Come back to KC to reconnect, celebrate, and reminisce with your fellow alumni.

Kettering College Giving Day: April 10, 2024

Take part in this single-day campaign where alumni, faculty, staff, and Kettering Health leadership work together to raise funds for scholarships. Your contributions help our students pursue their dreams of working in healthcare, so please join us!

For more information, visit kc.edu/alumni.