

The Magazine for
Kettering College Alumni
2024–25 ISSUE

Pacesetter



Farewell, Dr. Brandstater: Guided by Vision, Grounded in Care

INSIDE: Honoring a Legacy of Teaching | Dr. Paul DeLange's Last Lecture | Teal Cords



President's Message

It's an honor to serve as interim president of our college during this important chapter in our shared story. While times of transition can feel uncertain, they're also full of potential. This is not a pause—it's a moment of reflection, forward movement, and growth.

Over the past few months, I've seen so clearly what makes this place special: faculty who go above and beyond for their students, staff who show up with care and purpose, and students who are driven by a deep sense of calling. I've also had the chance to welcome several presidential candidates to campus—a clear sign that our search is progressing, and that strong, thoughtful leadership will guide us into the next phase of our journey.

In the meantime, we're not standing still—we're moving forward. This is a season to mind the GAP: to recognize where we are, where we want to be, and how we get there. That means committing to

a Growth mindset, staying Accountable to one another, and making real Progress toward our strategic goals.

At the heart of that work is the spirit of our mission: to prepare those called to serve in healthcare. That calling is sacred, and so is the effort to create a college community where everyone—students, staff, and faculty—feels they truly belong and can thrive.

I'm energized by where we're headed and grateful to lead in this moment. Thank you for your trust, your support, and your belief in the future we're building—together.

Scott Bennie PT, DSc, MBA, FNAP
Interim President (Summer 2025)
Dean of Academic Affairs



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Kettering College Says Goodbye to a Visionary Leader

After 11 years of service, Kettering College President Dr. Nate Brandstater is moving on to his next chapter. Before his departure, he reflected on the growth, challenges, and community moments that defined his time here.



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Notable Retirements: Honoring a Legacy of Teaching

Four longtime faculty members are retiring from Kettering College this year. Their dedication, both in and out of the classroom, has shaped students, strengthened programs, and supported the College's mission for decades. We honor their commitment and the legacy they leave behind.



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Kettering College Hosts First Mental Health Fair

With support from the Ohio Department of Higher Education, Kettering College launched several new mental health initiatives this year—including its first annual Mental Health Fair, aimed at promoting awareness, reducing stigma, and building a more supportive campus community.

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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.





Guided by Vision, Grounded in Care

Celebrating Dr. Nate Brandstater's Lasting Impact on Kettering College

When Dr. Nate Brandstater, Ph.D., became the seventh president of Kettering College in February 2014, he stepped into the role with a clear purpose—to serve the College's mission and the people who make it thrive. From his first day, he led with both vision and heart, guiding decisions with compassion, steadiness, and a deep respect for those around him.

Over the 11 years that followed, Dr. Brandstater's leadership and commitment brought tangible growth and meaningful change. He helped increase enrollment, launch new programs, and improve campus spaces so students could connect, learn, and feel at home. These accomplishments were always paired with a deeper purpose—building a community where every person felt respected, valued, and united in moving the College forward together. Through it all, he never lost sight of what mattered most: helping students succeed.

As his time at Kettering College drew to a close, Dr. Brandstater reflected with gratitude—for the people who inspired him, the experiences that shaped him, and the bright future he envisions for the College he served so faithfully for more than a decade.

How have you seen student experiences or outcomes evolve as a result of your work here?

Several years ago, we challenged ourselves to rethink our institutional learning outcomes. The College Pillars—Leadership, Scholarship, Service, and Faith—came out of many conversations around our General Education program. It took several years of expansive discussion and planning to develop them fully. These Pillars have guided program and curricular development, as well as co-curricular programming. Because of this, Kettering College graduates have a clearer sense of what makes their education distinctive.

Are there any programs or changes you championed that you're especially glad you pushed for?

Whenever I walk into the lower level of the Boonshoft, see students gathered there, studying in the glass-walled rooms, or grabbing something from Anna May's Café, I'm glad we pressed



Dr. Nate Brandstater named President of Kettering College.

2014



Unveiling of the Creation Wall: One of the first things you see when you enter the main doors, the Creation Wall is a striking visual centerpiece that reflects the college's values and story.

2016

Passage of the TRAIN Act: Nate played a pivotal role in securing millions in funding for Kettering Health, Kettering College, and other hospital-affiliated institutions.

2018

2015



Fall semester, Occupational Therapy Doctorate Program inaugural class begins.

2017



Kettering College Celebrated its 50th anniversary, KC's first giving Day raises \$59K.

2018

KC branch of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) started on campus to support student mental health.

forward to renovate that space during COVID. It was challenging—and challenged, sometimes—but the result is a set of integrated spaces that show how much we care about our students and their success.

What do you think has changed the most about the College during your tenure?

I think we have grown in our identity as an academic institution—with doctoral-level education, a faculty promotion process that values professional scholarship, and high-level student research posters and presentations.

We have also deepened our partnership with Kettering Health in ways that are valuable not just to our students, but to our healthcare system and the communities we serve.

What relationships or collaborations—within or outside the College—helped shape your presidency in meaningful ways?

Kettering College is successful because we all work together to achieve our mission. Every person at KC shaped my presidency in meaningful ways—by sharing amazing accomplishments, bringing forward an innovative idea, calling attention to a student need, or in countless other ways.

So many faculty and staff shaped the success of KC students during my tenure just by bringing their best self to work every day and doing it tremendously well. In critical times, key leaders and elected officials also engaged with us and helped us continue to be the faith-based, independent, hospital-affiliated college we have always wanted to be.

When you think about the College today, what parts of it feel like a reflection of your vision or leadership?

My best memories of Kettering College—and my tenure as president—

center on a vision shared by everyone who has contributed to it since its beginning. I could sum it up in two quotes that I know by heart.

The first is from Charles F. Kettering: “High achievement always takes place in the framework of high expectation.” You can find it installed in the stairwell of the Learning Commons.

The second is from the writings of nursing program director Anna May Vaughan, who once asked: “Have we met God’s expectation of us for this student?”

An expectation of excellence, a sense of accountability to our Creator, and living out that accountability through compassionate service to others—that is the shared vision of Kettering College, and I believe it is alive and well today.

Those who know Dr. Brandstater will remember more than his professional achievements. They will remember his warm personality, genuine care, and approachable smile. A walking thesaurus with a flair for language, his impressive and often complex vocabulary left a lasting impression almost as much as his singing voice did—and no one could bring Buddy the Elf to life at Christmas quite like he could.

Beyond the humor and holiday cheer, it’s clear that his greatest impact was found in the everyday moments. Whether sharing a quick hallway conversation or leading an important meeting, he showed consistent care for both people and the College’s mission.

Dr. Brandstater’s influence still remains—in the programs he strengthened, the spaces he improved, and in the quiet, lasting ways he touched the lives of those around him.

Dr. Brandstater has since accepted a new role as Executive Director for the Consortium of Hospital Affiliated Colleges and Universities (CHACU) and works on contract with the Association of Adventist Colleges and Universities (AACU).

As he embarks on this next chapter, we celebrate his continued dedication to advancing higher education and healthcare—carrying the spirit of Kettering College with him every step of the way.

By: Ariana Jervis



Dedication and Ribbon Cutting of the Nursing IPE Sim Lab expansion.

Kettering College awarded Collegiate Purple Star Award for its commitment to supporting military-connected students and their families.

Kettering College expands nursing options with Accelerated BSN Track for Fast-Track Nursing Education.



Kettering College expanded its graduate offerings with the launch of the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program.

First international partnership, with Burman University in Canada, supports opportunities for education and work in the U.S. nursing field.

Our campus welcomes newly developed Anna May’s café space.



Ukrainian Initiative welcomes students displaced by war.

Kettering College awarded grant to create and implement a comprehensive education program for Community Health Workers (CHW) in Dayton, OH.

Retiring Faculty: A Legacy of Teaching

*Honoring 144 Years of Commitment,
Care, and Lifelong Influence*



This year, we say farewell to four remarkable faculty members whose combined 144 years of service have left a lasting mark on Kettering College. Through changing times and generations of students, these educators have been constants—challenging, encouraging, and shaping future healthcare leaders. Their impact is impossible to measure, but it lives on in the people and place they helped shape. As they step into retirement, we celebrate their influence and the impact of a lifetime spent in service to others.

Dr. Joan Ulloth, PhD, RN – 43 Years of Service

For 43 years, Dr. Joan Ulloth has been a cornerstone of the Division of Nursing. Known for her expertise in pharmacology and medical-surgical nursing, she brought clarity, compassion, and humor into the classroom—connecting with students in ways that made even the most complex material feel within reach.

Beyond the lectures and labs, her greatest legacy may be the nursing tutoring program she founded in 2004. Recognizing that some students needed extra support, Dr. Ulloth proposed and built a system that met learners where they were—offering individualized help and early intervention that changed the trajectory for countless future nurses.

Though stepping back from full-time teaching, she plans to keep tutoring—because that's what Dr. Ulloth does best: she meets students where they are and helps them rise.

Dr. Paul DeLange, PhD – 43 Years of Service

Since 1982, Dr. Paul DeLange has been a foundational presence and familiar face at Kettering College. For 43 years he has shaped minds and challenging students across a wide range of science courses. Microbiology was his passion, but over the years he also taught anatomy and physiology labs, genetics, human biology, and even academic success strategies. His approach to teaching was built on structure, high expectations, and grace - pushing students to grow while offering the support they needed. He believed great teaching was measured not by test scores, but by the long-term impact on students' lives.

Known for connecting course material to real-life meaning, Dr. DeLange often drew from personal experience. His faith and family were constant sources of motivation, and he found the most fulfillment in hearing from former students



FEATURED

- 1 | Nursing professor Dr. Joan Ulloth attends the Nursing Dedication Ceremony.
- 2 | Dr. Joan Ulloth, PhD, RN
- 3 | Dr. Paul DeLange teaches a microbiology lab.
- 4 | Dr. Paul DeLange, PhD
- 5 | Dr. Elizabeth Golba observes a student during a respiratory lab.



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6 | Dr. Vail McGuire poses with fellow faculty members after presenting at the 2024 Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC) in Spokane, WA.

7 | Dr. Vail McGuire chats with a colleague in her office

8 | Dr. Vail McGuire, PhD

9 | Dr. Elizabeth Golba, EdD

who returned years later to thank him for his impact.

As he steps into retirement, Dr. DeLange looks forward to more time with his family—especially his grandchildren—and leaves behind a legacy built on dedication, integrity, and a passion for helping students become lifelong learners.

Dr. Vail McGuire, PhD – 36 Years of Service

Since 1988, Dr. Vail McGuire has helped generations of students at the college find their voice through writing. From composition and literature to *Writing in the Sciences* and *Narrative Medicine*, her classes encouraged not just technical skill, but reflection, empathy, and awareness of others. Her influence extended beyond the classroom through key roles in assessment, accreditation, and curriculum development—always with a deep commitment to faith and thoughtful scholarship.

Dr. McGuire's own academic path, including a PhD, exploring the intersection of rhetoric and Christian theology, shaped how she taught and mentored others. She met with every student one-on-one, helping them articulate what matters and how to express it with clarity and purpose.

Known for her kind presence, the classical music playing from her office, and passion for teaching, Dr. McGuire leaves behind a legacy of learning, grace, and growth.

Dr. Elizabeth Golba, EdD – 22 Years of Service

Dr. Elizabeth Golba began teaching in 2004 as an adjunct in the Respiratory Care program, drawing on more than 30 years of experience as a respiratory care practitioner to bring real-world insight to the classroom. After more than a decade in that role, she transitioned to the Health Sciences program, where she found her stride mentoring adult learners pursuing big dreams while balancing full-time jobs—just as she once did.

Dr. Golba's influence is evident in both her teaching and scholarship. In the Health Sciences program, she taught courses in ethics, healthcare management, and leadership. Her academic interests—ranging from online learning and interprofessional simulations to ethics, diversity, equity, and inclusion—reflect her deep commitment to inclusive, forward-thinking education.

As she steps into retirement, her legacy lives not only in the lessons she taught, but in the beliefs she instilled in her students—that growth is always possible, and it's never too late to learn. Her own academic journey from associate degree to doctoral graduate stands as a powerful testament to that truth. "Never, ever give up on your dreams," she says. "And believe you're never too old to reach them."

Dr. Golba looks forward to spending time with family—especially her 91-year-old father—and to the peace of knowing she made a lasting difference in the lives of so many.

By: Ariana Jervis



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Dr. Paul DeLange's Last Lecture

When Dr. Paul DeLange gave his "Last Lecture" this spring, it wasn't just a retirement speech—it was the culmination of a 45-year teaching career, 43 of those spent at Kettering College. With nearly 8,000 lectures delivered and more than 7,000 students taught, Dr. DeLange leaves behind a legacy rooted in transformation—not just education.

He became part of the Kettering College family in 1982 at just 24 years old, after teaching high school biology. Over the decades, he taught microbiology, genetics, human biology, and more—earning his Ph.D. in 2007 while raising a family and teaching full-time. But his true gift was never just what he taught—it was how.

"I don't really care if they all get A's," he said. "I care if they get the knowledge, the application, and the value—that comes later."

His classroom was rigorous, yet full of laughter. From comparing bacterial shapes to pasta to explaining genetic disorders through the chromosomes of his twin grandsons with Down syndrome, he brought science to life in ways that were engaging, real, and deeply human.



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Many gathered for his farewell lecture, which he framed around what he called the "Four R's": Reminder, Review, Reflections, and Reminiscing—a journey through the growth of his teaching and the unchanging values that guided it.

Dr. DeLange adapted with the times—moving from chalkboards and typewriters to PowerPoint and AI—but his principles never wavered: keep learning, make content meaningful, and never take yourself too seriously.

"Teaching should be engaging," he reminded the audience. "You may be remembered much longer than anything you've taught—so be kind."

For many, his classroom was where the turning point came—where students transformed from overwhelmed to unstoppable. And even when the coursework was tough, his door—and his heart—remained open.

As chair of the Math and Science Department, he also led by example, helping shape a faculty known across campus for their leadership and involvement.

"They're not just great teachers," he said. "They're everywhere—mentoring, chairing,

making a difference."

So what kept him going all these years? Faith. "I see God in every part of microbiology, genetics, and biology," he shared. "I teach with awe—because we are fearfully and wonderfully made."

That belief is what led him to Kettering College in the first place: a place where he could openly share his beliefs and inspire others to see science through a divine lens.

"My goal was never just to get them through the course," he said. "It was to prepare them for life."

After more than four decades of guiding students through microscopes and life lessons, his impact remains in the confidence he built, the careers he helped launch, and the lives he touched.

As he looks ahead, Dr. DeLange says he feels peace about leaving. "Kettering will be just fine without me," he laughed. But for the many students, faculty, and families who were shaped by his teaching, mentorship, and heart—his impact will always be part of them.

By: *Genesis Santos-Guzman*



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FEATURED

1 | A glimpse into the early years—Dr. DeLange, 1983-1984

2 | Dr. DeLange smiles through his final lecture.

3 | 2024-2025 Math and Science Department

4 | Warm applause marks the close of a remarkable chapter.

5 | Dr. DeLange and a student share a joyful moment.



President-Elect of the American Occupational Therapy Association Visits Campus for Special Address



Students, faculty, and guests of the Occupational Therapy Doctoral Program were honored to welcome a distinguished guest to our campus during this year's Occupational Therapy Scholarship Colloquium. Dr. Arameh Anvarizadeh, the newly appointed president of the American Occupational Therapy Association, delivered her inaugural address during the event, marking a significant moment in our program's history.

Held on campus in the KC auditorium, the colloquium brought together students, faculty, and professionals in the field to celebrate and showcase scholarly work in occupational therapy. The highlight of the gathering was the address by President-Elect Anvarizadeh, whose inspiring speech emphasized innovation, leadership, and advocacy in the practice of occupational therapy.

"We are living in a pivotal time for our profession," President-Elect Anvarizadeh shared. "The work you are doing as students and future practitioners will shape the future of occupational therapy, ensuring

that we continue to empower individuals to live fulfilling lives. How will you use your voice and power to enact change?"

Following the address, President Anvarizadeh engaged with students during a Q&A session, offering insights into emerging trends in the field and encouraging attendees to embrace leadership roles early in their careers.

"This visit from our association's president made this year's colloquium truly special," said Dr. Higgins, OTD Program Director. "Our students had the rare opportunity to hear directly from a national leader about the future of occupational therapy and how they can contribute to it."

The Occupational Therapy Scholarship Colloquium continues to be a cornerstone event for Kettering College, fostering academic excellence, professional development, and a spirit of innovation among students.

By: Courtney Dove

FEATURED

1 | AOTA President Dr. Arameh Anvarizadeh speaks at the Scholarship Colloquium.

2 | Dr. Arameh Anvarizadeh with the KC OTD faculty.

3 | Dr. Arameh Anvarizadeh, president of the AOTA.

4 | Dr. Arameh Anvarizadeh shares her purpose for becoming an OT.

First Annual Mental Health Fair a Resounding Success

At Kettering College, our mission is to view health as harmony with God in body, mind, and spirit. This year, we have aimed to do just that. Through grant funding from the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE), several mental health awareness initiatives at Kettering College were launched. With anxiety and depression reaching epidemic proportions across the country—including Ohio—and suicide ranking as a major cause of death among college-age individuals the need for mental health education and support has never been more urgent.

Subsequently, the campus community came together for a powerful and uplifting event at the first annual Mental Health Fair, held on March 18th in Anna May's Cafe. With a strong turnout of students, faculty, and staff, the fair provided valuable resources and interactive activities aimed at fostering a culture of mental wellness on campus.

Attendees had the opportunity to explore various aspects of mental health in a supportive and welcoming environment. Representatives from mental health organizations, counseling services, and student-led initiatives were present to share insights and offer guidance on managing stress, anxiety, and overall well-being.

"The event exceeded our expectations," said a group of students after the fair. "We saw so many students actively participating, asking questions, and showing genuine interest in learning how to prioritize their mental health. It was inspiring to witness."

Given the positive response, organizers are optimistic about making the Mental Health Fair an annual tradition. "This is just the beginning," Dr. Paula Reams, Dean of Nursing, added. "We hope to continue building a community where mental health is openly discussed and supported."

In addition to the mental health fair, Kettering College has worked tirelessly to ensure that over 90% of our employees are QPR certified. QPR is a suicide prevention organization that teaches "Question, Persuade, Refer"—the three simple steps anyone can learn to help save a life from suicide.

Question (Q)

Persuade (P)

Refer (R)

Our commitment to student well-being is stronger than ever, with expanded mental health resources now in place. We've partnered with *Uwill*, a leading mental health and wellness platform for students. This service provides immediate teletherapy, crisis support and wellness programming. Students can use this resource 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In case of emergency treatments a mental health emergency grant is available to students. This fund helps make mental health services more accessible by reducing financial barriers to treatment.

A healthy mind is key to being a caregiver. At Kettering College,



we are striving to produce well-rounded healthcare professionals. This is just the beginning for us, but we are hopeful that our students have the tools necessary to seek the care needed and know that we are standing beside them during their times of uncertainty.

For more information about QPR or to inquire about certification, visit www.qprinstitute.com.

By: Courtney Dove

FEATURED

1 | Professor Sukira Totty poses with students at the 1st annual Mental Health Fair.

2 | Representatives from Kettering Health Behavioral Medicine spreading awareness of their program.

3 | Student showing support at the inaugural Mental Health Fair.

Bridges of Change: Community Health Workers at The Foodbank



What does it mean to be a bridge in a time of crisis? For three Kettering College-trained Community Health Workers (CHWs) at The Foodbank, Inc. in Dayton, Ohio, it means turning empathy into action—offering not just food, but hope. Kettering College's CHW certification program prepares passionate individuals to meet real community needs with care, knowledge, and heart. Jerry Woods, Wen Harris, and Cory Hardin are doing just that—connecting neighbors with vital healthcare, resources, and support. Their impact reminds us of the power in equipping our own community to uplift one another.

Jerry Woods IV earned his CHW certification in winter 2023 and has served as a SNAP Outreach Coordinator since December 2022. Motivated by a passion for service, Jerry says his role gives him purpose: “This is for me.” He views CHWs as essential bridges, connecting individuals to healthcare, clarifying critical information, and encouraging self-advocacy. The program’s focus on Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) gave him practical tools to address barriers. “Meeting people exactly where they are, leading with a ‘Yes,’ and offering intentional, tailored support, creates the foundation for lasting change,” he explains. Jerry also advocates for justice-impacted individuals: “A second chance is good, but a fair chance is even better.” Though the work is challenging, he finds fulfillment in seeing real progress and prioritizing wellness to sustain his impact.

Wen Harris completed the program in winter 2024 and brings dual expertise as a Licensed Addiction Counselor and CHW to his work at The Foodbank. The program helped him build deeper connections and develop tools to support diverse needs. “I will take everything

I’ve learned and become a chameleon, adapting to each unique situation that crosses my desk,” he says. When a client faced sudden homelessness, Wen quickly secured shelter and transportation—an experience that affirmed his calling: “I can do this job well... it allows me to benefit the entire community.” For Wen, even the simplest support can make a big difference: “Anytime you improve a child’s life, even with something as simple as socks, it’s a significant win. A win is always big for someone without.”

Cory Hardin earned his CHW certification in spring 2025 and has supported reentry and workforce development efforts at The Foodbank since May 2023. Having been active in the field prior to earning his certificate, Cory saw firsthand the vital role CHWs play. The program deepened his understanding of local resources and strengthened his ability to connect clients with meaningful support. “CHWs can truly be game-changers in our community,” he says. “They bridge essential services, helping residents overcome barriers. Dayton is full of opportunities yet unique challenges, and CHWs actively support community members toward healthier, more sustainable living.”

Community Health Workers are vital to The Foodbank’s mission, helping clients access food, healthcare, and other essentials that promote long-term stability. “Our goal is to shorten the food line,” says Case Manager/Social Worker Carrie Breitwieser. “Through the CHW program, we directly impact the Social Determinants of Health—addressing barriers like transportation, housing, and food. By connecting people to these resources, we help them thrive.”

By: Genesis Santos-Guzman

FEATURED

1 | Cory Hardin receives CHW certificate – spring '25 ceremony.

2 | Spring 2025 CHW Cohort celebrates program completion.

3 | Wen Harris, Carrie Breitwieser, and Jerry Woods IV stand by The Foodbank, Inc.'s recycled apple sculpture.

Thank You, Dr. Scott Bennie

This summer, Kettering College was led with clarity and care by Dr. Scott Bennie, PT, DSc, MBA, FNAP, who served as Interim President during a time of important transition. With his deep commitment to our campus community and mission, Dr. Bennie provided steady leadership that allowed momentum to continue building across key areas of college life.

"We want to highlight that there is real momentum happening across many key areas of campus life and operations—momentum defined

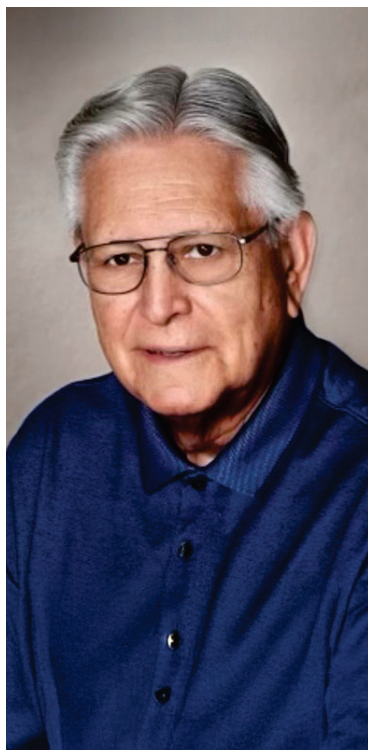
by our Interim Strategic Plan and focused on directly benefiting you, our students, and our dedicated faculty and staff," said Dr. Bennie.

"Whether it's program-specific, student support services, campus life, or infrastructure enhancements, positive developments are underway and gaining traction."

We thank Dr. Bennie for stepping into this role with integrity and vision. His leadership helped lay the groundwork for continued progress as we look to the future with confidence and purpose.

**"Positive developments are
underway and gaining traction."**





In Remembrance of Bialquin Arellano

Bialquin "Dale" Arellano was born in Embudo, New Mexico, in February 1933. Before his time at Kettering College, he was a master barber and served in the U.S. Army as a medic in the Korean War from 1953 to 1955. Once home, he studied radiologic technology at Southwestern Junior College and finished his B.A. at Texas Wesleyan College.

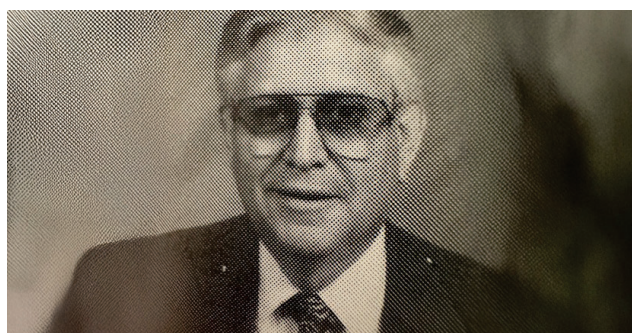
Dale came to Kettering Health in 1968 and was a pioneer in the development and expansion of the Radiologic Sciences and Imaging department at what was then called Kettering College of Medical Arts. He and fellow founding member Ernie Neufeld expanded the department from a single radiology program to the Department of Diagnostic Imaging Modalities in 1981. This expansion included the addition of sonography, angiography, computed tomography (CT), and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) certificate programs. Under Dale's guidance, the department changed its name to Radiologic Sciences and Imaging. He believed in growing with technology and never settled for second best. He expected excellence from his students and was driven to give them all the tools they needed to achieve it. He retired after 27 years of service as the director of the RSI department.

All three of Dale's daughters graduated from Kettering College. "My dad loved his years at Kettering, passionate about educating his students and their success," his daughter, Dena, says. "I will continue his legacy of helping students at KC."

After retiring, he and his wife moved to Texas, then to California to be closer to his family, including daughters Dena and Kim. He passed away in 2024 at the age of 91.

Dale's legacy continues at Kettering College through his daughters, colleagues, and students. He started the Arellano Imaging Scholarship Fund to support students pursuing an education in RSI.

By: Rachel Cole



Kettering College and Wilberforce University Launch Nursing Partnership



Kettering College (KC) is pleased to announce the launch of a partnership with Wilberforce University. This strategic collaboration will give Wilberforce University graduates the opportunity to seamlessly begin their nursing education through the accelerated four-semester degree track at Kettering College.

Graduates will have the opportunity to transition to KC's A-BSN program from Wilberforce University to Kettering College after completing the required coursework. This partnership reflects both institutions' dedication to addressing the national nursing shortage by preparing a new generation of highly qualified nurses, with a focus on increasing diversity within healthcare.

Due to a national shortage of nurses and a growing awareness of the lucrative and flexible profession, more students are becoming interested in that career path. Dr. Paula Reams, Kettering College Nursing chair and dean, says it is common for students to get close to completing their undergraduate program and then desire to switch gears.

Both institutions want students to welcome this realization, rather than feel overwhelmed by it. "Sometimes people don't know they want to go into nursing until halfway through their schooling—it happens often. If they study something but then feel a change of heart, this option is here for them, said Dr. Reams."

This new collaboration with Kettering College will give Wilberforce students awareness of an additional educational path they might not have otherwise considered instead, giving them options without having to seek them out on their own.

Through this partnership, graduates could have two bachelor's degrees as soon as 16 months after graduation from Wilberforce University. Students will have the benefit of a strategic academic transition from Wilberforce University to Kettering College while completing their required coursework in a collaborative and supportive environment.

By: Courtney Dove

Elevate Your Education, Pursue Your Calling.

Advance your nursing career with a Master of Science in Nursing from Kettering College.

Apply today at www.kc.edu/msn



Kettering
COLLEGE 

Letter from Ashley Neu, Director of Alumni Engagement



To our exceptional Alumni,

I hope this letter finds you well! As a proud representative of Kettering College, I bring you warm greetings and continued gratitude for your unwavering support and dedication to your alma mater. Your commitment to KC extends far beyond your time as a student. Whether through financial contributions, mentorship, or simply sharing the value of your education with others, your generosity continues to shape the experiences of current and future students. We couldn't be prouder of you and are always eager to celebrate your successes.

Since stepping into the role of Director of Alumni Engagement, I've had the privilege of spending the past year connecting with many of you and deepening our shared commitment to Kettering College. It's been an exciting and fulfilling journey so far, and I'm proud of the progress we've made in strengthening alumni relations and enhancing opportunities for engagement, connection, and giving back. I look forward to continuing this meaningful work together as we build on the strong foundation laid by those who came before me.

As we prepare for another exciting academic year, I'm thrilled to share that we've set the dates for our 2025 Alumni Reunion Weekend. **Please mark your calendars and plan to join us October 4-5, 2025, as we come together to reconnect, reminisce, and celebrate as proud graduates of KC.**

You can find more details about the weekend by visiting: kc.edu/alumni/reunion-weekend.

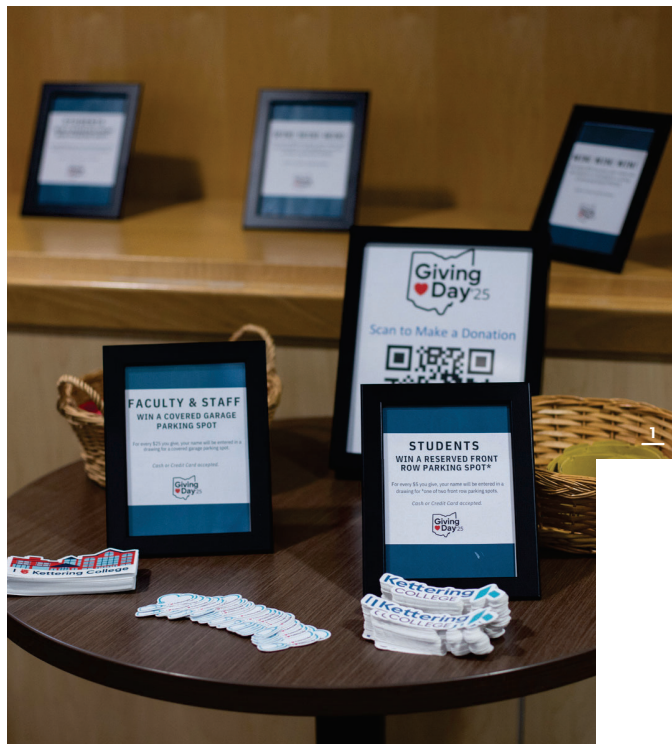
To stay engaged and ensure you receive updates and invitations, I encourage you to update your contact and professional information through our alumni contact page on the KC Alumni website or by emailing us at alumni@kc.edu. Staying in touch helps us keep you informed about exciting developments and upcoming opportunities to connect.

Additionally, I invite you to join our Kettering College Alumni Facebook group—created just for KC graduates. It's a wonderful way to share memories, network, and stay in the loop with all things KC.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to Kettering College. It's been a joy to grow in this role and serve such a passionate, inspiring alumni community. KC is proud to have you as part of our family and is always here cheering you on in all that you do.

Ashley Neu

Ashley Neu, Director of Alumni Engagement & Career Services



Giving Day 2025

Student Success Driven by Generosity

When it comes to supporting students in their educational journey, the Kettering College community consistently shows its dedication through generous giving. Giving Day 2025 proved to be another example of this generosity, setting a record for funds raised in a single day.

This year's Giving Day was held on April 9, 2025, and the 24-hour campaign brought in \$55,883. These funds will directly impact student success and enhance educational opportunities across campus.

Tina Howard, Philanthropy Officer at Kettering College, reflected on the milestone event:

"Thank you to everyone who supported our students during KC Giving Day. The support we received from our alumni and friends really does make a difference in the lives of our students. Thank you again for all you do for the college!"

The top funds for gifts were:

- **Kettering College General Scholarship Fund: 22 gifts, totaling \$4,871**
- **Nursing Department Endowment Fund: 10 gifts, totaling \$850**
- **Student Assistance Fund: 8 gifts, totaling \$1,985**
- **Non-specified Funds: 6 gifts, totaling \$19,440**
- **PA Fund: 6 gifts, totaling \$435**

The success of this year's Giving Day demonstrates the strong bonds within the Kettering College community and their shared commitment to advancing healthcare education. These contributions will help ensure that future healthcare professionals receive the quality education and support they need to succeed in their chosen fields.

By: Rachel Cole



FEATURED

1 | Students, faculty, and staff are given the opportunity to win parking spots if they donate.

2-3 | Kettering Foundation and Kettering College employees rally to encourage donations and talk to fellow employees about what their gift means to students.

4 | Students had the opportunity to "pie a professor" if they donated on Giving Day.

Donor Spotlight: Trina and Tom Melzoni

A Legacy of Faith and Scholarship



1



2

When Trina Melzoni stepped into Kettering Health as a new graduate nurse - the first hire from Sinclair - she had no idea how deeply she and her husband Tom would come to connect with the Kettering community. She had the opportunity to participate in the Nursing Internship program and discovered her love for the ICU. One of the most notable memories of her time there included the blizzard of 1978, when the National Guard transported her to work.

The Melzonis moved away from Dayton that same year, but their connection to healthcare and education remained. Trina continued her nursing career, specializing in surgery, PACU, endoscopy, and spending the following 22 years in cardiothoracic ICUs before retiring in 2015.

When Trina and her husband, Tom, returned to Dayton in 2001, they reconnected with the Kettering Health community. Through the New Neighbors League, they met Terry and Dorothy Burns. Terry was a Kettering Health executive at the time, and his wife, Dorothy, was an RN. This friendship had a profound impact on their spiritual lives and ultimately inspired their decision to establish a scholarship at Kettering College.

"Christian values play a large part in the care of the whole person at Kettering Health," Trina explains. With Tom following his father into ministry, the faith-based healthcare environment at Kettering resonated deeply with the couple's values.

The Melzonis are no strangers to supporting education. Tom was the first in his family to graduate from college and always valued educational opportunities. After his father's passing, Tom and his sister established a scholarship in his memory at a small school that trained ministers in eastern Kentucky. This marked the beginning of the Melzonis' scholarship journey, which has since expanded to include two nursing scholarships that Tom established in Trina's name. For the Melzonis, establishing scholarships is about making a meaningful difference in students' lives rather than seeking recognition.

"My hope is that we are making a difference in the lives of these students, that we are making it easier for them to achieve success," Trina says. "I believe nursing is not only a career, but a calling. It is hard work. The need for nurses will never go away."

Through their support of Kettering College students, the Melzonis' legacy reached beyond their own professional accomplishments, touching the lives of future healthcare professionals who will carry forward the values of excellence, compassion, and service that have defined Trina's nursing career and the couple's life together.

By: Rachel Cole

FEATURED

1 | Donors share their reasons for giving.

2 | Maternity/Newborn Nursing students pose for a picture during Giving Day.



2025 Graduates Embark on Service-Focused Careers in Healthcare



Kettering College held its 57th commencement ceremonies at Southbrook Christian Church in April and the Dayton Masonic Center in July, conferring 116 degrees in the spring and 163 degrees in the summer.

In his address to the graduating class of 2025, Dr. Scott Bennie, Interim President and Dean of Academic Affairs, emphasized the transformative journey each student has undergone. "From your first day on campus to this final walk across the stage, our mission has remained centered on your growth, not just academically, but personally, professionally, and spiritually as a whole person preparing to serve with excellence, compassion, and integrity."

Emily Austin, a Doctor of Occupational Therapy graduate who had already secured a position in a skilled nursing facility, spoke at the spring commencement ceremony. She reflected on what unites all Kettering College graduates regardless of their specific healthcare discipline. Her perspective highlighted the shared values that define the college's alumni.

"Even though we have all experienced different paths that have led us to our chosen health fields, we also all have something in common. We all chose to enter a field that puts the person first. We are all here because we want to help others."

This sentiment resonated throughout both ceremonies, as graduates from each represented program shared the common goal of improving lives through healthcare service.

During the summer commencement ceremony, Bethany

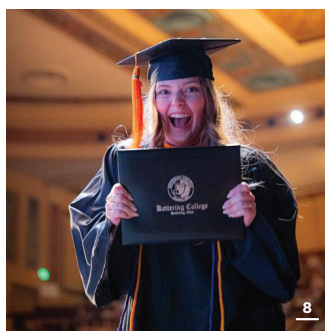




Latessa, a Master of Physician Assistant Studies graduate and class of 2025 President of the Clinton Trot Society, reflected on her clinical rotation in the country of Sierra Leone. She recalled the joy and gratitude she saw in the patients she met, as well as their perseverance despite the incredible challenges they faced. "Looking forward to my career as a clinician, I can only hope to be a provider who encourages that sort of resilience in my own patients. A provider who not only selflessly serves my patients and plays a role in their physical healing but also stands by them to encourage their spiritual healing as well. It is my prayer that each of the graduates sitting behind me, as providers, can do the same for their patients."

The Class of 2025 now joins Kettering College's diverse network of alumni and carries with them the commitment to transforming lives through whole-person care.

By: Rachel Cole



FEATURED

1 | New graduate receives her diploma during the July 2025 commencement ceremony at the Dayton Masonic Center.

2 | Graduate celebrates with friends and family after the July 2025 commencement ceremony.

3 | Occupational Therapy Doctorate graduates pose with Associate Professor Danielle McPeck OTD, OTR/L.

4 | New graduates snap a celebratory selfie after the Summer 2025 commencement ceremony.

5 | Associate Professor of Social Studies, Dave Price, hugs a student after she walks across the stage.

6 | Justin Dove, an Occupational Therapy Doctorate graduate receives his doctoral hood in April 2025.

7 | A proud graduate celebrates with her family moments after the ceremony concludes.

8 | A graduate pauses mid-walk across the stage for a quick photo op during the Summer 2025 commencement ceremony.

9 | A graduate stops for a celebratory photo, bouquet in hand, after the Summer 2025 commencement ceremony.

10 | Interim President, Scott Bennie, presents graduates with their diplomas.

11 | Occupational Therapy Doctorate graduates pose for a photo together.



Teal Cords, Bright Futures

*Graduates Wear Their Commitment
with Pride at Summer Commencement*

At Kettering College's summer commencement ceremony this July, more than 45 graduates crossed the stage wearing teal cords draped proudly over their gowns. While cords are often used to denote academic honors, these teal cords represented something distinct and deeply meaningful: a commitment to a career at Kettering Health.



FEATURED

- 1 | Tabitha Powers walks across the stage at commencement, graduating with her degree in radiologic technology.
- 2 | OTD faculty preparing the hood of graduate at Spring Commencement.
- 3 | Kettering College graduates excited to start their career.
- 4 | The summer 2025 teal cord graduates on commencement day.

"The teal cord at graduation shows their families and friends that they have committed to a career and accepted an offer from Kettering Health," says Ashley Neu, director of career services and alumni student affairs. "That's because we have such a great relationship with Kettering Health."

That relationship is more than symbolic. Kettering College and Kettering Health are physically connected—but also deeply aligned in purpose. The college's career services office works closely with Kettering Health's workforce development team to help students prepare for and transition into full-time positions, often before they even graduate.

Students who receive teal cords still have a few more milestones to reach. They must pass their board exams, secure licensure, and meet all professional requirements before officially beginning their roles. But the cord serves as a visible promise of what's to come—and a sign that their dedication and preparation have already paid off.

"Our relationship with Kettering Health is an obvious draw for people who attend our school," says Neu. "But another very important part of our mission is one of professional development. We don't just give people jobs because they are Kettering College graduates. We also want to make sure that our graduates are the very best professionals out there."

That preparation happens throughout the student experience at Kettering College. Career services supports students with resume development, mock interviews, and even on-campus hiring events where hiring managers from Kettering Health conduct interviews and extend real job offers.

"Professional development is woven into everything we do," says Neu. "We're not just preparing students for a job—we're preparing them for a calling."

By: Courtney Dove



**Show Your KC
Pride—Wherever
You Are.**



**Scan the QR code
to shop now**

Explore apparel and gear built
for comfort, spirit, and everyday wear.







FEATURED

1 | An OTD student connects with a young student from SVA.

2 | IPE Simulation Center Technician, Gerson Hortua participates during spirit month.

3 | Students gather to celebrate Friendsgiving with food, friendship, and gratitude.

4 | PA students support each other as they conclude their program with poster presentations.

5 | A graduate embraces a loved one after receiving her degree.

6 | Professors take part in the "Pie a Professor" event for Giving Day 2025.

7 | A student worker assists visitors at the college's front desk.

8 | PA students gather to celebrate Scott and Becki Gardner as their last semester on campus comes to a close.

9 | Nursing students dive into hands-on learning during a classroom lab.

10 | Students enjoy a mid-day coffee break between classes.

11 | Radiologic Technology students smile for a quick group photo.

12 | Students make their way to volunteer sites on Community Service Day 2024.



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Save the Dates!

Alumni Reunion Weekend: October 4-5, 2025

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

Kettering College Giving Day: April 8, 2026

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