It’s a Boy!!

Class of ’65 Mannequin Arrives!

Over the past year, alumni from the School of Nursing class of 1965 have been rallying donations to purchase a much-needed human simulator for the School of Nursing. Led by the efforts of Ethel Hock and Patty Crowl, several members of the class pitched in to raise the $50,000 needed for the training device.

The CAE Apollo Adult Patient Simulator boasts a wide range of powerful new features to deliver the ultimate in realistic simulation-based healthcare training.

Apollo’s Features
• Bag-valve-mask ventilation
• Head tilt/chin lift
• Blinking and reactive eyes; multiple settings
• Tongue swelling and bronchial occlusion
• Bilateral and unilateral chest rise and fall
• Responsive chest compression
• Urinary catheterization
• Interchangeable genitalia
• Limbs removable at joints to support amputations

[Apollo’s website]
Scott Johnsen ('14) was welcomed back to the NIU campus on March 1 as a guest speaker for the Biomedical Engineering Success Team (BEST). Scott is a 2014 graduate of the School of Nursing, where he also founded the Northern Prairie Alliance, NIU’s chapter of the American Association of Men in Nursing (AAMN). Scott now serves as a board member for the AAMN at the national level.

Kristen O’Connor, secretary of BEST, provided an event summary.

“During the event, Scott spoke about the various healthcare technologies nurses interact with on a daily basis to treat their patients. In the progressive care unit, Johnsen works mostly with cardiac and stroke patients, but the unit encounters a wide range of medical issues, requiring various medical technologies. We learned about IV pumps, EKGs, defibrillators, pacemakers, ultrasounds, dialysis machines, and a few others. One of the most interesting topics was the Baclofen Pump, a device surgically implanted to treat severe muscle spasticity caused by spinal cord problems by injecting liquid into spinal fluid. Students also picked Johnsen brain about problems he has noticed with today’s healthcare technology and what he thought needed improving. He named two improvements to be made: better EKG leads to eliminate easily acquired interference and better communication/integration between different machines and equipment.”

“It was intriguing to listen to a speaker talk about the technology I have already used in clinical and the machines I have yet to use. Very relevant to me even though I am not studying Biomedical Engineering.” – Emily Brown (NIU student, nursing major)
Notes on Northern Nursing

March 2017

Continuing Education Offerings

The School of Nursing will be offering the following one-day courses for continuing education credit for regional nurses. Only two left this semester!

- **X-Ray Interpretation**
  - April 7, 2017
  - 2-6 pm

- **Orthopedic Skills**
  - April 21, 2017
  - 2-6 pm

To enroll, go to [this link](https://go.niu.edu/dnp). Cost for NIU employees and preceptors is $50; for all others cost is $100. CEUs are provided through the Illinois Department of Professional and Financial Regulation (IDPFR). Location for all sessions is the Nursing Building at 1240 Normal Road in DeKalb, IL.

Graduate Colloquium Announced

The School of Nursing will be hosting a graduate colloquium on **Thursday, March 30, 2017 from 5:00 – 7:00 pm in room 111** of the Nursing Building.

**Topics this year include:**

- “How note to prescribe Benzodiazapines: You’re getting nervous already, aren’t you?” by Alan “Tony” Amberg.

- “Chronic pain and addiction treatment in the opioid epidemic” by Joe Lyon.

There is no cost, but RSVPs are appreciated to Dr. Beamer at lbeamer@niu.edu. Light refreshments will be provided, as well as time to interact with the guest speakers.

It’s time to take the next step.

NIU is accepting applications for its new online DNP program; classes start in fall 2017.

Post-master’s and post-bachelor’s programs available.

[go.niu.edu/dnp](http://go.niu.edu/dnp)
The “Hollywood” School of Nursing

Last summer a film crew descending upon the simulation lab of the School of Nursing to film scenes for a web-based television series published on YouTube. The Platoon of Power Squadron (PoPS) debuted in 2009 and is wrapping up in 2017 after ten episodes. The series had a faithful following. Jake Jarvi (series creator) brought his crew to the NIU School of Nursing to use the simulation lab to film several hospital scenes for the final episode. The finale was aired at the Music Box Theatre in Chicago on March 4, 2017. The tenth and final episode will be posted on their YouTube channel soon – check it out and look for the familiar confines of the sim lab!

PoPS Trailer

THE PLATOON OF POWER SQUADRON

School of Nursing Welcomes

Dr. Geoffrey Gordon

Fifth Track students on the verge of graduation will get some valuable financial advice from Dr. Geoffrey Gordon, NIU’s Marketing Department Chair. Dr. Gordon will provide some timely advice on the common financial issues and concerns facing young professionals about to enter the workforce, some for the first time. The goal is to get students thinking about their financial future and aware of some of the common pitfalls many people fall into when they first start working full-time.

Spring 2017 Pinning Ceremony

YOU’RE INVITED!

The NIU nursing program’s Pinning Ceremony will take place on Saturday, May 13 at the Egyptian Theatre in DeKalb at 1:00 pm. We would like to encourage all friends, family and alumni of the program to come. Show your support of the nursing profession’s newest members (and your Huskie pride) by joining us. We hope you’ll come!
Kendall Klein: Rising Star!

The international honor society of nursing, Sigma Theta Tau, International, is preparing for the 28th International Nursing Research Congress in Dublin, Ireland this summer. As part of the event, a “Rising Star” award was made to select students which will allow them to attend and present their research at the Congress. NIU’s own Kendall Klien was nominated and selected as a Rising Star in Research winner.

Kendall graduated from the NIU School of Nursing in December 2016 and will be presenting her research on “Uncovering Issues Most Important to Parents after their Child’s Suicide Attempt.”

Forward, Together Forward Scholarship Winners

The Forward, Together Forward Scholarship is one of NIU’s most prestigious recognitions for students. Awardees receive a $4,000 scholarship and are selected based on their demonstrated strength of character by a committee of staff and faculty from across the university. A nursing student was among the five selectees in 2015 (Courtney Crutchfield) and 2016 (Rachel Shapland). This year, the School of Nursing is proud to announce two nursing students have been selected. 2017 nursing student awardees are Luis Flores and Tariana Sandkam.

Luis Flores is a junior nursing major from Oswego, IL

Tariana Sandkam is a junior nursing major from Buffalo Grove, IL

NPA Welcomes Back Cam Kielb

The Northern Prairie Alliance welcomed back former club president Cameron Kielb as their guest speaker at the March meeting. Cam graduated in 2015 and shared with the group his experiences in seeking and finding his first nursing position. He shared some search and interview tips and described what life is like for a new nurse in a large hospital setting.

Read the NIU Today article here.
Continuing Collaboration

In a continued and mutually-beneficial collaboration effort, the nursing program and the physical therapy graduate program are helping each other strengthen and broaden their skills. Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) students invited first track nursing students over to the Monsanto Building for instruction on best practices for moving patients. The School of Nursing then returned the favor by putting DPT students through their paces in the nursing simulation lab.

In one simulation lab scenario, DPT students are expecting to help a recent accident victim with mobility, but instead find the patient is experiencing serious complications. Recognizing those signs, communicating with the patient and their peers became critical components to their success. This type of inter-departmental collaboration leverages the expertise of other health care providers and leads to nurses and physical therapists who are better prepared for the collaborative environment of health care today.

The School of Nursing is Hiring!

The School of Nursing has current staff and faculty openings for next school year. We anticipate additional staff position openings to be posted soon as well. If interested, please check the NIU Human Resources site at https://jobs.niu.edu/

Current openings (all assistant professor positions require a doctorate):

- Assistant Professor (Health Policy and Management)
- Assistant Professor (Informatics experience preferred)
- DNP Academic Counselor
- RN-BS Advisement Coordinator
- Assistant Professor (Any specialty, PhD required)
The Student Nurses Organization (SNO) makes it a point to get involved in community service every semester. This semester they participated in the university-sponsored Dance Marathon on February 25th to raise money for the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago, a part of the Children’s Miracle Network. Overall, NIU raised $40,739. The SNO team of 10 student nurses raised $1,813 as part of that effort.

Lauren Greene, a SNO board member, was on the Dance Marathon executive planning board this year. She said that patient families came to the event and spoke about their experiences and struggles, which really drove home the point of the event. There were games and, of course, lots of dancing.