

STUDENT LIFE

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

FACULTY NEWS

NEWSLETTER

From the Roost to the Bedside

The Pin That Changes Everything



Pinning Ceremony



Blessing of the Hands

On Friday, May 15th, Benedictine College School of Nursing celebrated one of nursing's most treasured traditions, the Pinning Ceremony. As the final chapter of the spring semester came to a close, family, friends, faculty, and staff gathered to honor the newest members of the nursing profession in a moment that was equal parts milestone and memory.

The nursing pin has long carried deep significance. For our students, it marks the culmination of years of early mornings, late nights, clinical hours, and simulation labs. For those who watched from the auditorium seats, it was powerful reminder of why this work matters.

As our graduates head out into the field, they carry with them not only their pins but the values at the heart of a Benedictine education. Faith. Service. And Excellence. We couldn't be prouder of everything they have accomplished, and we cannot wait to see the difference they will make at besides across the region and beyond. Congratulations, Class of 2026. You've earned it!!

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Reaching New Heights

Senior Spotlight: Jeremiah Tappan

Ask any nursing student what their schedule looks like and the answer is usually the same... full. Between exams, clinicals, skills labs, and simulation, there is not a lot of daylight left in the day. But Jeremiah Tappan has found a way to carve out something just for himself, and it happens to involve a chalk bag and a very tall wall.



Jeremiah is entering his senior year at Benedictine College and his third semester of the nursing program. When he is not hitting the books, logging clinical hours, or working through scenarios in the simulation lab, you might just find him at the rock-climbing gym – scaling walls, problem-solving routes, and clearing his head one handhold at a time.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and Jeremiah's hobby is a perfect reminder of something nurses often tell their patients but sometimes forget to tell themselves - - you can't pour from an empty cup. For Jeremiah, rock climbing is more than a physical challenge. His hobby demands focus, presence, and trust in yourself, all of which have a way of quieting the noise and refilling what has been emptied.

As he heads into his final year, Jeremiah serves as a great example for his peers: you can pursue excellence in the classroom and still make space for the things that keep you grounded. Or in his case, keep you climbing. We cannot wait to see where this future nurse lands . . . though knowing Jeremiah, it will probably be somewhere at the top.



"I started rock climbing when I was 13 years old, so it's been about 8 years. ... Through high school I mostly trained for and climbed in competitions. Once I started college, climbing became a way to exercise and process thoughts and emotions."

- Senior Nursing Student, Jeremiah Tappan

More Than a Lecture: The Power of Lived Experience

This spring, students in Dr. Gomes' Care of Adult I course received something no textbook can offer, a firsthand account of what it truly means to live with a colostomy.

At the close of the gastrointestinal unit, Cindy Dickason walked into the classroom not as a healthcare provider, but as a patient. She shared her personal journey of obtaining a colostomy. The fear, the adjustment, the grief, and ultimately, the resilience it took to move forward. But perhaps what resonated most with students was what Cindy said about her nurses. She spoke openly about how profoundly the nurses in her care shaped her outlook on her new reality. Their words, their presence, and their compassion made a difference that went far beyond clinical skill.

Joining Cindy was her home health nurse, who offered a professional perspective on caring for patients with ostomies. She spoke candidly about the critical importance of therapeutic communication in this population, reminding students that patients with ostomies are at real risk for depression, suicidal ideation, and deep feelings of self-consciousness. The nurse's role, she emphasized, is not simply to manage the stoma. It is to see the whole person and to keep talking to them, even when... especially when, it is hard.

Together, Cindy and her nurse gave students something invaluable: a view from both sides of the hospital bed. Cindy, thank you! Thank you for your vulnerability, your courage, and your willingness to walk into a room full of future nurses and show them exactly why their presence matters. You gave our students a gift that will stay with them long after the semester ends.



At BCSON, guest speakers like Cindy remind our students that behind every diagnosis is a human being with a life, a family, and a future that nursing can support and transform. We are deeply grateful to every individual who gives their time and their truth to help shape the next generation of nurses. You are part of this program too, and we could not do it without you.

BCSNA in Action: Service Beyond the Classroom

Service is woven into the fabric of Benedictine education, and the Benedictine College Student Nurses Association (BCSNA) proved this spring that their commitment to caring for others does not stop at the classroom door.

BCSNA kicked off their service efforts with a toiletry drive benefiting the mental health unit at Mosaic Life Care. Students collected personal care items to be provided directly to patients upon discharge.

To close out the semester, BCSNA members rolled up their sleeves (literally!) for a full clinic clean-up day at ALLWAYS Community clinic. Dr. Callahan and students scrubbed walls, cleaned bathrooms, and shampooed carpets throughout the facility, leaving it refreshed and ready to continue serving the community it was built for.

Community clinics like ALLWAYS are lifelines for the populations they serve, and keeping those spaces clean, safe, and welcoming is a form of care in itself. Our BCSNA students understood the assignment.

To every student who donated, scrubbed, and showed up - - thank you! You are already the kind of nurses this world needs.



A Doctorate Kind of Year

As we celebrate the close of another incredible academic year, the Benedictine College School of Nursing is proud to recognize three of our very own faculty members who have earned their doctoral degrees. Congratulations to Dr. T. Ryan Grove, who graduated with her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) with a minor in nursing education from the University of Missouri, and to Drs. Sarah Gillies and Kristy Callahan, who each earned their Doctor of Nursing Education (DNE) from The Ohio State University. Their commitment to lifelong learning and advancing their expertise is a testament to the same standard of excellence they bring to their students every single day. We asked each of our newest doctors what inspired their doctoral journey. Here's what they shared:



"I chose to further my education because I wanted to continue growing as an educator, leader, and advocate for the nursing profession. Pursuing a doctoral degree felt like a natural step in this growth, and it was so fun to be a student right alongside our BC nursing students!

I chose the Doctor of Nursing Education (DNE) program at Ohio State because I want to be an expert in nursing education. The university has a strong reputation for academic excellence, and the program challenged me both personally and professionally. I am so grateful for the opportunity to bring what I learned to my students, colleagues, and institution." - **Dr. Gillies, DNE, RN, PCCN**

"I have always had a deep passion for quality improvement and finding innovative ways to improve healthcare and nursing education. When I began exploring doctoral programs, the Doctor of Nursing Practice felt like the perfect fit. The specific program I chose has an emphasis in Leadership and Innovations in Healthcare, paired with a minor in nursing education. These aligned well with every goal I have set for myself in this profession.

Simulation education, quality improvement, and empowering future nurses have always been at the heart of my work, and this program gave me the tools and the language to pursue all of it at the highest level. But honestly? The biggest motivation sitting right in front of my every day is our students here at Benedictine. They inspire me far more than they know, and if I can return even a fraction of that inspiration back to them, then every late night and every sacrifice was absolutely worth it." - **Dr. Grove, DNP, RN, CHSE, CHSOS**



Ohio State's DNE program felt like the right place for me because it aligned with who I strive to be as a nurse educator. I have always seen myself as someone committed lifelong learning, to teaching practices grounded in evidence, and leading with purpose. More than anything, I want to make a lasting impact on my students, on my colleagues, and on the nursing profession as a whole. Nursing education is one of the most rewarding paths! There's nothing quite like watching a student grow in confidence, develop their clinical judgment, and step into their identity as a nurse, knowing you played a role in shaping that journey. That sense of purpose is what drives me every day. - **Dr. Callahan, DNE, RN, CNE**

Beyond Borders: BCSON Students Serve in Belize



This past spring break, 18 junior and senior nursing students traded their textbooks for something even more meaningful, the opportunity to serve. Co-led by Christina Roberts and Lucille Lange alongside Dr. Gomes, students traveled to Belize for a mission trip that put their skills and compassion to work in a global setting.

Partnering with a local physician, students helped establish a mobile clinic to provide care for individuals across a wide range of health needs. They conducted door-to-door home visits, performing assessments and offering prayer and support to community members. Students also assisted families experiencing hardship by providing a week's worth of food, a simple but powerful act of service.

This experience is a beautiful reflection of the BCSON mission, to prepare future nurse leaders who deliver person-centered, ethical, holistic, and compassionate care. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of them, and the lasting impact they made on the lives of those they served.



Annual School of Nursing Retreat: "Seeing Jesus in Those You Serve"

This past March, nursing students gathered for the annual School of Nursing retreat, "You Did It to Me: Seeing Jesus in Those You Serve." Held at the beautiful St. Benedicts Abbey Church, the day offered a meaningful space for connection, reflection, and renewal. A nice welcome pause in the midst of a busy semester.

The morning began with breakfast generously provided by NACN-BC and time for fellowship before students heard from three inspiring presenters: Sr. Joan Kolbe '20, Jocelyne (Kleinsmith) Smith '19, and Erin (Geiger) Dannenberg '19, each of whom shared their own experiences and insights on nursing and service.

Students also had the opportunity to participate in adoration, confession, and Mass - a reminder of the deeper calling that underlies the work of caring for others.

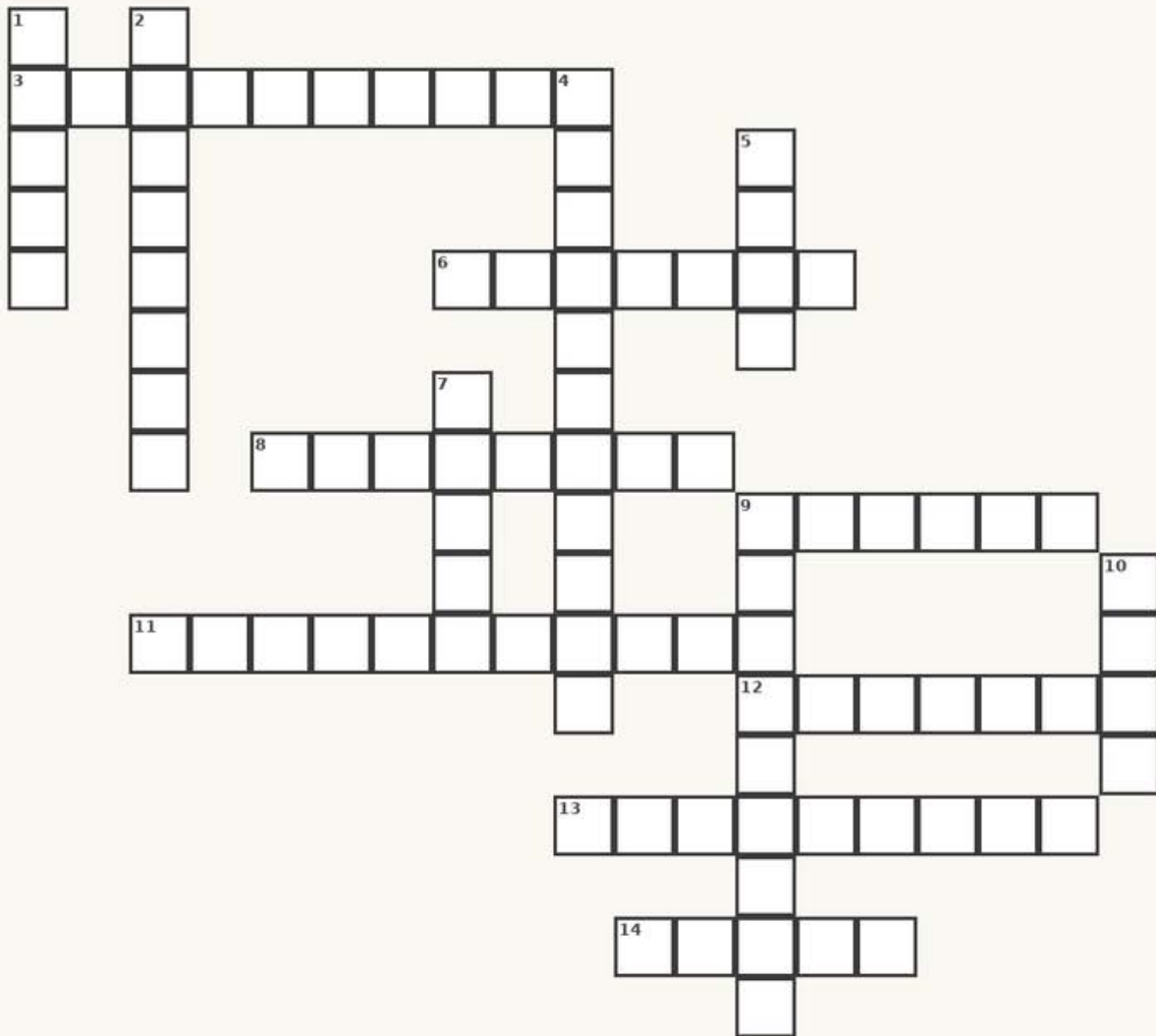
We are grateful for the presenters who so generously gave their time, and for the community our students continue to build with one another. Days like this remind us why we do what we do.



Summer Safety Crossword

Test your summer health & safety knowledge!

Submit your completed puzzle to nursing@benedictine.edu and enter to win a prize!



ACROSS

- 3. Life-threatening emergency from extreme overheating
- 6. Beverage that significantly accelerates fluid loss
- 8. Most serious skin cancer linked to sun exposure
- 9. Salt electrolyte critical to fluid balance
- 11. Dangerous loss of body fluids
- 12. Painful skin damage caused by UV overexposure
- 13. Maintaining adequate fluid balance in the body
- 14. The body's natural cooling mechanism

DOWN

- 1. Seek this outdoors to reduce heat and UV exposure
- 2. Diuretic in coffee and energy drinks that depletes fluids
- 4. Charged mineral (e.g. sodium, potassium) lost through sweat
- 5. Soothing plant gel applied to sunburned skin
- 7. Best and most accessible source of hydration
- 9. UV-protective product applied to the skin
- 10. Active mineral ingredient in many sunscreens