Transformational Gift
$2 million to revolutionize college’s simulation

Recap
2023 Reunion Celebration

Lauren Adams-Sanantonio
College’s first Mayo Clinic fellow
College receives $2M to update technology and simulation lab

A $2 million gift will modernize the Michigan State University College of Nursing’s technology and simulation spaces, ensuring that students’ training includes the most up-to-date equipment in the high-demand field of nursing.

MSU alumna of 1965 Nancy Grosfeld and her husband, Jim, provided the gift, which will be phased in over three years. The gift includes funds for advanced high-fidelity patient simulators — lifelike manikins (infant, pediatric and adult) that can mimic and display a full range of neurological, cardiovascular and respiratory physiological responses; a large technology-supported display that allows students to interact with a virtual library of anatomical images to advance their understanding of the human body and facilitate diagnostic decision-making; virtual reality and immersive interactive simulation projection equipment; and other investments.

“My husband, Jim, and I wanted to direct our gift to a department that was experiencing a shortage of important qualified professionals in the field,” said Grosfeld. “In selecting the simulation program specifically, we felt it would provide valuable lifelike clinical experiences for the students and allow the College of Nursing to expand and grow with the use of new technology and state-of-the-art simulation equipment.”

As a student, Grosfeld initially pursued a career in social work before going on a field trip with a group of nursing students. She said the experience was so impactful that she decided on a new career path and called her time at MSU an “invaluable educational experience.”

Some of the new simulators are so lifelike, they will offer students opportunities to engage with realistic “patients,” that cry, blink and even sweat, among other physiological responses.

The college is already in the process of acquiring the new equipment, which is planned to be in place by fall. Additional items funded through the gift include a medication dispenser station, simulated automated external defibrillator, or AED system, and structural improvements like cabinets and headwall units that will create a realistic clinical environment.

Undergraduate nursing student Alexa Bowles said her peers will benefit immediately from the gift.

“The college provides us with different opportunities to interact with some of our manikins, for example,” said Bowles. “We practice a lot of our skills on these, which will then translate into the hospital setting. So this donation will mean more opportunities for students to be working right at the bedside with these manikins and this will help them feel more prepared to work with new patients in the hospital.”

Read Nancy Grosfeld’s story and full news feature in the CON Newsroom, MSU Today
Lauren Adams-Sanantonio’s journey to Rochester, MN, holds many puzzle pieces. From finding her passion for nursing at a young age to battling her own health scares during her academic career, all paths led to Adams-Sanantonio landing the first Mayo Clinic Gastroenterology and Hepatology (GIH) Fellowship in the college’s history.

Adams-Sanantonio felt a calling to help people when she was a child. Her mother fostered her love of science by involving her in her medical assistant career. It seemed natural to enter healthcare after high school, and the versatility of nursing caught her attention.

“There's so much versatility in nursing overall. I liked that I had the opportunity to go back to school if I ever wanted to,” said Adams-Sanantonio.

Adams-Sanantonio completed a 12-month residency in the Mayo Clinic’s ICU after completing her BSN. Her research team evaluated post-intensive care syndrome (PICS). Through coordination with physical therapy, the team promoted a toolkit called the ABCDEF bundle that prevents patients from developing impairments from ICU stays.

“It was her residency that encouraged Adams-Sanantonio to pursue nursing practice “There were so many cases, where I wondered, ‘What could have been done to prevent this person from getting to this point?’”

Adams-Sanantonio chose to specialize in gastroenterology after battling with personal chronic conditions. Before starting the DNP program, she developed gastroparesis, or partial to complete paralysis of the stomach. The slew of symptoms it caused forced her to seek treatment from multiple facilities during the program. However, it offered an opportunity to see care through a patient’s lens.

“I’m hopeful that my experiences, although it was a rocky road, will be impactful long-term,” said Adams-Sanantonio. “It will allow me to be more compassionate and develop different approaches to my care process.”

The GIH Fellowship will take Adams-Sanantonio through several inpatient and outpatient rotations, including a rotation in the ICU she worked in during her experience with Mayo. The fellowship also requires her to complete didactic, GIH curriculum, a 12-month research project, skills training, etc.

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-Lauren Adams-Sanantonio, DNP ‘23

Read Lauren’s full story in the CON Newsroom

Spartan Nurses are not only providers, they are also Allies

Read patient stories at nursing.msu.edu/allies
The College of Nursing is proud to share the stories of 146 scholarship recipients for the 2023-24 academic year! These students received a total of over $377,000 from 48 funds and endowments. Thanks to the generosity of friends and donors, these scholarships and endowments lessen the financial burden endured by nursing students.

This year’s scholarship recipients represent 26 counties in Michigan, 10 states, and two countries (United States and Thailand). Each student has their own background, their own research interest, and a strong passion for education. This also means that every student has a unique financial barrier on their path to success. Having access to financial assistance through scholarship allows the barrier breaking to become a joint effort between the student and their scholarship donor.

Congratulations to all scholarship recipients on your achievement, and thank you to all who invested in their educational success!

As we work to create light for others, we naturally light our own way.

- Mary Anne Radmacher