

2025



SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

Program Book



College of Nursing
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Program

SCHEDULE

I. Cirque-tacular Performance

II. Introduction

III. Dinner

IV. Student Impact Speeches

**V. Recognizing the Recipients:
Student Scholarships**

**VI. Leadership Through the Years:
Video and Recognition**

VII. Speaker - President Kevin Guskiewicz

VIII. Cirque-tacular Performance

IX. Alumni Awards

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Endowed

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS



60TH ANNIVERSARY ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FUND

This scholarship was created to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of Michigan State University College of Nursing. The goal of this scholarship program was to support deserving students in need, helping them realize their dreams of receiving a nursing degree from Michigan State University.

*Andrea Parrado, Traditional BSN Student
Desirae Jones, Accelerated BSN Student*

ANGELA AND RICHARD STRAWN NURSING ENDOWED FELLOWSHIP

Angela and Richard Strawn are longtime supporters of our nursing programs through philanthropy and advocacy. Angela (BSN '65) is a graduate of the MSU College of Nursing. Her career in nursing has so far spanned over 50 years, spent mostly in nursing higher education and administration of nursing education programs. When deciding how to leave a lasting impact on the College of Nursing, Angie decided to provide fellowship assistance at the graduate level to nurses who desired to become future nursing faculty out of concern for the nursing faculty shortage.

This fellowship will be awarded to prospective or matriculating graduate students planning a career in nursing education. Preference is given to highly motivated students who demonstrate financial need and possess a minimum 3.5 GPA.

Nonye Amadi, Psych Mental Health DNP Student

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NP SCHOLARSHIP

Recipients of the Behavioral Health NP Scholarship must be enrolled in the Nursing Practice or Doctor of Nursing Practice Psychiatric Mental Health Program and have a minimum 3.5 GPA.

Erika Hall, Psych Mental Health DNP Student

CAPTAIN SEAN GRIMES NURSING SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Established by his beloved family, this scholarship honors Captain Sean Grimes (BSN '97) who was an exceptional student that graduated with honors from the College of Nursing. He was the recipient of a Distinguished Military Graduate Award from the Reserve Officers Training Corps.

Sean enlisted in the Army to make a positive impact in the world. His life tragically ended on March 4, 2005 when his armored Humvee was hit by an improvised explosive device during combat patrol in Ar Ramadi, Iraq. Sean had been in Iraq for about six months when he was killed.

This scholarship provides financial assistance to MSU nursing students that are an Army Reservist, Army National Guard member, active Army soldier or honorably discharged veteran of these branches.

Carl Franson, Nurse Anesthesiology DNP Student

CAROL ROBINSON BEALS ENDOWED NURSING SCHOLARSHIP FUND

This scholarship was established to honor Dr. Carol Robinson Beals (CON BSN '72). President of the Beals Institute, Carol is a medical doctor whose practice specializes in rheumatology. Today, the Beals Institute is an important healthcare provider for the state of Michigan.

This fund provides financial assistance to students on a basis of academic achievement. Recipients must maintain a minimum 3.3 GPA. Preference is given to students who are permanent residents of a rural area in the state of Michigan. Residents from the greater Midwest are also eligible for consideration.

Ally Sims, Traditional BSN Student

COLLEGE OF NURSING ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

The Alumni Association provides opportunities for alumni to maintain lifelong engagement with the College. This scholarship was established to demonstrate the College of Nursing Alumni Association's commitment to the support and encouragement of future nurses in their pursuit of academic excellence.

Students considered for this award must be pursuing a degree with the College of Nursing and be in good academic standing. Applications must include evidence of the candidate's involvement in community activities and demonstrated leadership abilities. Students who demonstrate financial need will be given preference.

Reese Buhlman, Traditional BSN Student

CONLON WEHRWEIN ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS IN THE COLLEGE OF NURSING

Paul (SS BS '70) and Teresa (CON BSN '72) Conlon Wehrwein are graduates of Michigan State University as is their son Eric (BUS BA '01, AL BA '01) Conlon Wehrwein. In 2001, Teresa returned to Michigan State University as a faculty and member of core administration at the College. She has since retired after making a significant impact on the College. When determining how to make this lasting gift to Michigan State University, the couple was significantly concerned about the growing nursing faculty shortage in Michigan and the nation.

This scholarship is eligible to prospective or matriculating graduate students planning a career in nursing education. Preference is given to highly motivated candidates who have demonstrated financial need and are in good academic standing by possessing a minimum 3.5 GPA.

*Jolene Shrewsberry-Kovacs,
Family NP DNP Student*

DIANA ROUSH MEMORIAL ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP IN THE COLLEGE OF NURSING

This scholarship honors the memory of a beloved member of the College of Nursing community, Diana Houghtaling Roush (CON BSN '75), who passed away on August 1, 2005. In 1991, she became a faculty member in the College, fulfilling a number of responsibilities including the leadership role of Clinical Placements Coordinator. Diana worked to make contact with clinical agencies, and always made it a priority to act as an advocate for students.

This scholarship is eligible to prospective or matriculating graduate students majoring in nursing education. Preference is given to highly motivated candidates who have demonstrated financial need and are in good academic standing by possessing a minimum 3.0 GPA.

Kayeleigh Brown, Family NP DNP Student

DOROTHY AND EDWARD HERTEL SCHOLARSHIP

Dorothy and Edward Hertel were Michigan State University alumni and long-term supporters of the University. Their daughter, Dr. Patty Peek, is a nurse practitioner and former full-time faculty member in the College of Nursing for forty years.

Patty and her husband Bill have established this scholarship to honor her parents and to acknowledge their lifetime commitment to Michigan State.

This scholarship will be awarded to a nurse practitioner (student) pursuing a doctorate in nursing practice who aspires to improve quality of care for underserved populations.

Nonye Amadi, Psych Mental Health DNP Student

DR. CHARLES AND MARJORIE A. GLIOZZO ENDOWMENT FUND FOR NURSES AND CAREGIVERS

Dr. Charles A. Gliozzo gained experience as a prime observer of the importance of nursing after his wife Marjorie suffered a stroke in 2012. He was impressed with the loving care conveyed to her during treatment and recovery. According to Dr. Charles A. Gliozzo, nurses and caregivers are the "backbone" to the medical profession.

The purpose of this fund is to provide support for students who are, or are dependents of, current or previous care providers with an expressed interest in a career at a nursing home, skilled nursing center or assisted living facility. Priority is be given to applicants who have at least one year of experience in a care facility and have an expressed interest in a career focused on gerontology.

Clarke Campbell, Traditional BSN Student

DR. JOHN F. DUNKEL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

This fund was established by the family of the late Dr. John Dunkel, Associate Professor of Pathology at the College of Medicine at Michigan State University. It recognizes the family's strong connection to the field of nursing and is intended to encourage baccalaureate-prepared nurses who have demonstrated the capacity to achieve their educational and professional goals.

This scholarship provides financial assistance to graduate students attending the College's MSN or PhD programs. In addition to evidence of research potential, recipients are selected on a basis of academic merit and must maintain a minimum 3.5 GPA.

Allison Walsh, PhD Student

ELIZABETH BLAY MAISON ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

In 1962, Lorelei F. Rockwell graduated with a Bachelor’s in Business Administration from Michigan State University. Lorelei and her husband Wayne established this scholarship to honor the memory of her mother, Elizabeth Blay Maison, a devoted nurse who transitioned from this life at the age of 53.

This scholarship provides financial assistance to students of the College, with preference to undergraduate students that have demonstrated financial need and are in good academic standing.

*Hazel von Maur,
Traditional BSN Student*

EMELINE HAMILTON PH.D. DISSERTATION AWARD ENDOWMENT

Dr. Gwen Wyatt, accomplished researcher and Professor Emeritus at the College of Nursing, created this fund to honor her mother, and her mother’s commitment to higher education for her children and herself.

Recipients must be within one year of having successfully completed their dissertation, with a focus on cancer or another area of nursing.

*Wachira Suriyawong,
PhD Program Graduate
Lauren Pageau,
PhD Program Graduate*

FLORENCE KEMPF SCHOLARSHIP

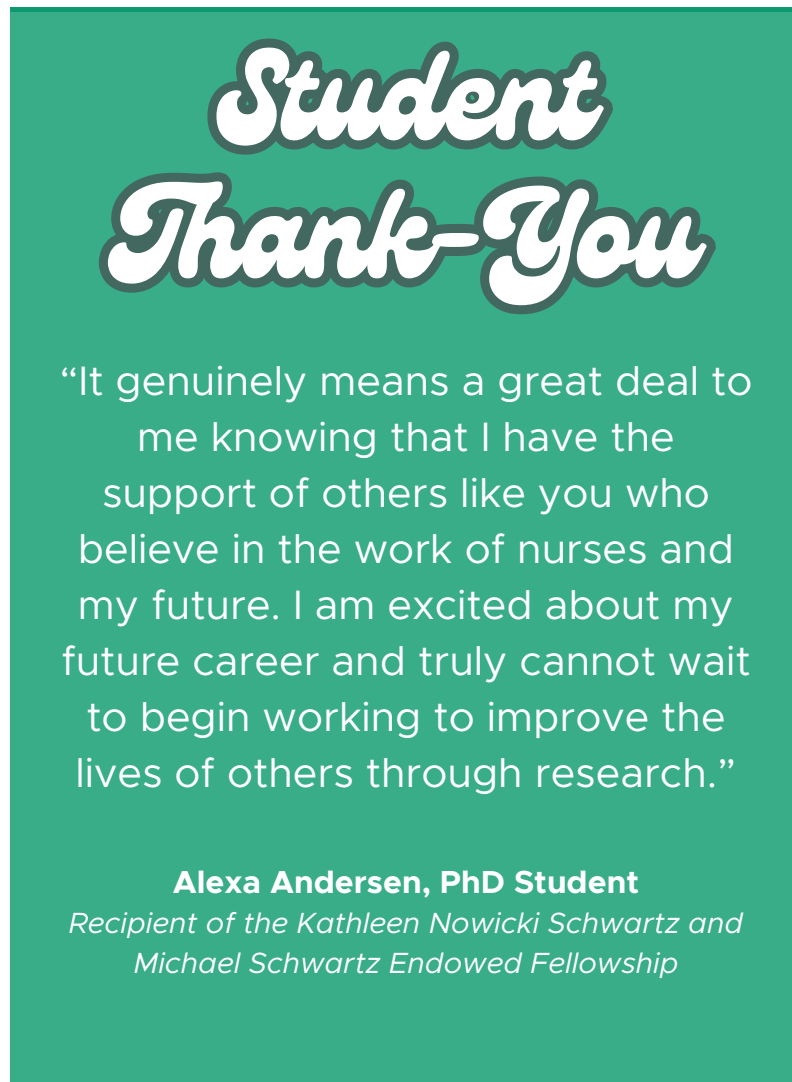
Florence C. Kempf was the first director of Michigan State University School of Nursing when it opened in 1950. She remained in that role until her retirement in 1964. Florence was instrumental in developing the educational framework for what is now the College of Nursing.

Created by Michigan State University nursing alumni and friends, this scholarship provides financial assistance to students who are in good academic standing.

Andrea Parrado, Traditional BSN Student

FLORENCE NOTHSTINE ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FOR NURSING

This scholarship was established by Leo Nothstine to honor his late wife, Florence Nothstine, and to encourage undergraduate and graduate students at the College of Nursing.



Recipients should be a resident of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, or Kansas. This scholarship is intended to help students who have demonstrated the drive to help themselves by working at least part-time while attending school and who have demonstrated financial need.

*Hazel von Maur,
Traditional BSN Student*

GEORGE AND MARGARET LORIMER PARSONS NURSING SCHOLARSHIP

Margaret Parsons (MSU Education alum) and her husband George were longtime supporters of Michigan State University.

This scholarship provides assistance to those who are in good academic standing and have a minimum of third year status as an undergraduate student, or are matriculating through a graduate or accelerated degree option program.

*Dajha Gadson, Accelerated BSN Student
Desirae Jones, Accelerated BSN Student
Alexis Karpenko, Traditional BSN Student
Ja'Kaila Sharp, Accelerated BSN Student*

GILBERT AND LEONA SCHUMANN ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship was established by Dr. Barbara Given, Michigan State University College of Nursing University Distinguished Professor, to honor the lives of her parents, Gilbert and Leona Schumann. Gilbert was a farmer, husband, loving father and grandfather. Leona Schumann had a long life as a mother, grandmother and great grandmother.

Gilbert's battle with ill health raised concerns with Leona and their children about the adequacy of care that the elderly receive. It is for this reason that the Gilbert and Leona Schumann Scholarship will always be awarded to nursing students who exhibit a commitment to the care of elderly. This scholarship provides financial assistance to second or third year students within an advanced degree program with a focus on gerontology. Students shall be selected on a basis of academic merit with a minimum 3.5 GPA.

*Candice LaFurgey,
Adult Gerontology NP MSN Student*

GLENN R. DEAN AND ANITA C. DEAN ENDOWED FELLOWSHIP FOR THE COLLEGE OF NURSING

Anita C. Dean received her Bachelor of Science degree in Dietetics, Foods and Nutrition, and her Masters of Science degree in Institutional Administration from Michigan State University. Ms. Dean served as a First Lieutenant in the Woman's Medical Specialist Corps during World War II. She taught at MSU from 1953-1981 in the College of Human Ecology.

This fellowship is established by Anita to honor her husband, Captain Glenn R. Dean, who passed on October 9, 1950 in the military operations in Korea.

Applicants for this fellowship must be in good academic standing. Recipients shall be selected with consideration for a high level of skill in health outcomes research related to individuals with families within the context of community-based primary care, faculty recommendations and documented scholarship activities such as presentations and publications.

Allison Walsh, PhD Student

HAYES-TALLEY NURSE ANESTHESIA ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Drs. Henry and Costellia Talley created this scholarship in honor of their respective mothers; Annie D. Talley and Sallie Lou Hayes. Henry and Costellia were both raised by single moms who supported their educational endeavors, while compromising their own dreams. Realizing the importance of education and the sacrifice their mothers made they created this scholarship to assist future generations in their educational endeavors.

This scholarship will support student(s) in good academic standing in the Nurse Anesthesia Program.

*Kristen Boersema,
Nurse Anesthesiology DNP Student*

HELEN CALDER NURSING SCHOLARSHIP

This fund was created by Ralph Calder, an architect who was involved in the design of 54 buildings on Michigan State University's campus. He established this endowed scholarship in memory of his wife, Helen, with the intent of honoring the nursing care that she received while battling a long illness.

This scholarship provides financial assistance to students whose permanent residence is in the state of Michigan and who have maintained a minimum 3.0 GPA.

Spencer Murphy, Accelerated BSN Student

HELEN M. KELLEY ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Helen M. Kelley was a practicing registered nurse for 45 years. She believed that nothing would ever replace good bedside judgment, care, and the support of a dedicated nurse. This scholarship was created by Helen's sons and daughter-in-law, all of whom are Michigan State University alumni, in her loving memory.

The Helen M. Kelley Endowed Scholarship provides financial assistance to students enrolled in the College of Nursing and are in good academic standing.

Isabela Domingues Martins, Traditional BSN Student

HELENE FULD HEALTH TRUST ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FOR BACCALAUREATE NURSING STUDENTS

This award is intended to encourage College of Nursing students that are enrolled in the Accelerated Second Degree Option Baccalaureate Program.

Somrina Ahmed, Accelerated BSN Student
Amber Hickey, Accelerated BSN Student

INEZ AND GLADYS HARMON ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Inspired by the attentive and caring nurses at the MSU Oncology Center, this scholarship was established by Dr. Laurence Harmon, Professor Emeritus of Food Science and Human Nutrition. Dr. Harmon created this scholarship in loving memory of his wife, Inez, and his sister, Gladys.

This fund provides financial support to students who have completed at least two years of university academic credits with a minimum GPA of 2.75 and who have the professional objective of becoming a registered nurse.

Somrina Ahmed, Accelerated BSN Student

JANET M. WENDORF ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Janet “Jan” May Wendorf passed away on January 24th, 2017. Words can never fully describe Jan’s zest for life, country, friends, God and especially her family. On several occasions, Jan played the role of hospice nurse for family members. Because she was not a nurse by trade, she had to educate herself on basic medical care, pain management and other skills that would help her loved ones live out their lives comfortably. Her actions, care, and compassion earned her the title of “honorary nurse.”

Over the 78 years of her life, Jan created a legacy of friends, gifts, and love, with her family as her greatest pride and joy. Committed to carrying on her work, Jan’s family created the Janet Wendorf Endowed Scholarship.

Preference is given to students who have demonstrated an interest in a nursing career in the area of caregiving.

Clarke Campbell, Traditional BSN Student

JANICE AND ALTON GRANGER ENDOWED STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

Janice Granger (CON BSN '80) was a valued member of the College’s alumni family and had extensive ties to the community and to the state of Michigan. She was a former member of the College’s Alumni Board and served on the Dean’s Advisory Council, and Board of Visitors. Janice’s dedication to Michigan State University earned her several awards, including the MSU Alumni Association Outstanding Philanthropist Award in 2001, the MSU Alumni Service Award in 2004, and the College of Nursing Distinguished Alumni Award in 2013. A champion of compassion, education and nursing excellence, Janice passed away at the age of 90 in 2024.

Janice and her husband, Alton (ENG BS '54), established this scholarship to provide financial assistance to graduate students with a track in gerontology preferred. Recipients must maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA.

Loveleen Kaur, Adult Gerontology NP DNP Student

JOHN A. SANDIN, II AND DR. JOHN A. SANDIN, III ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Marguerite (Sandy) DeWitt and her husband Richard DeWitt worked at Michigan State University for most of their careers. Sandy spent her time on campus tending to sick students as a nurse in Olin Health Center. John worked in facilities and was an avid Spartan.

Sandy established the John A. Sandin, II and Dr. John A. Sandin, III Endowed Scholarship in loving memory of her brother and his son. As a former nurse, nursing students hold a special place in Sandy’s heart. She hopes that anyone receiving this scholarship will practice their profession with compassion, excellence, and integrity. Recipients shall be students enrolled in the College of Nursing.

Susma Ghimirey, Accelerated BSN Student

JUDGE PAULA MANDERFIELD ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Paula Manderfield (CON BSN '79) worked as an RN part-time while attending Michigan State University to complete her bachelor’s degree in nursing.

When she entered law school, she continued to support herself by working as a nurse. Although known today as Judge Manderfield, Paula remains connected and has always held the belief that nursing is a noble and honorable profession.

This scholarship was established by Paula and her husband, David M. Gilstrap, with preference that it will provide financial assistance to students enrolled in the College's RN to BSN program.

Alexa Westfall, RN to BSN Student

**JULIE RAINES DINGERSON
NURSING ENDOWED
SCHOLARSHIP**

This fund was established by Julie's family in recognition of her nursing career. She spent 30 of her 41-year career in the field of Public Health Nursing, where she enjoyed working with MSU students in their Community Health rotation.

Julie and her family wish to remove financial barriers for academically talented students in the ACCESS program, with a preference to students from Benton Harbor where Julie grew up.

*India Stubbs,
Traditional BSN Student*

**KATHLEEN NOWICKI
SCHWARTZ AND
MICHAEL SCHWARTZ ENDOWED FELLOWSHIP**

Kathleen is a member of the College of Nursing BSN class of 1971, as well as the MSU College of Business Executive MBA class of 1985 and has held various management positions in nursing and hospital administration. Her husband, Michael, served in the U.S. Army and has held faculty appointments in Universities as well leadership roles at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital and BCBS of Michigan.

Kathy and Mike established an endowed fund in the College of Nursing to enhance the excellence of the College, and have funded a student commons in the Bott Building for Nursing Education and Research. In addition to their financial support, Kathy and Mike are very passionate about giving back through volunteerism. Kathy has remained heavily involved in MSU alumni engagement efforts as well as other community activities, while Mike has served on many local and state health agency boards.

The recipient of this scholarship shall be enrolled in the PhD program with a desired interest in

becoming a nurse educator.

*Callie Harris, PhD Student
Alexa Andersen,
PhD Student*

**KRYSTAL K. OWENS
"YOU'RE NOT ALONE"
SCHOLARSHIP
ENDOWMENT FOR THE
COLLEGE OF NURSING**

Krystal Owens grew up in Detroit, Michigan. As a young child, her goal was to be the first person in her family to earn a college degree. However, life experiences beginning in high school significantly altered her living out her college experience dreams. Eventually realizing that she wanted to assist other students in navigating college, she earned her BS in Social Work, then went on to MSU to earn an MA in

Student Affairs Administration. Krystal began her career at Southern Methodist University, then transitioning to the Michigan State University College of Nursing where she now serves as the Director of Student Affairs.

Supporting underrepresented populations is personal for Krystal, and she fervently expresses to all her students, "You're not alone."



**Student
Thank-You**

"It means so much to me to have people in the Spartan community who support my future career. I am humbled and honored that you chose to invest in me; please know how sincerely grateful I am. My goal is to use the knowledge I gain to serve the health and well-being of the community around me. To me, there is no greater purpose than to serve others."

Kayeleigh Brown, FNP DNP Student
*Recipient of the Diana Roush Memorial Endowed
Scholarship in the College of Nursing*

Therefore, recipients must be pursuing undergraduate or graduate degrees in nursing with a cumulative GPA of 2.75 or higher. They must be a first-generation college student, demonstrate financial need, or be an individual who exhibits leadership skills in the face of adversity or who have overcome significant obstacles as indicated in a personal statement, an active participant of the ACCESS program or future successor program, or a student who had demonstrated a commitment to enhancing diversity in the nursing workforce.

Sarah Erickson, Traditional BSN Student

LINDA J. SPENCE ENDOWED FELLOWSHIP

This fellowship was established by the late Linda J. Spence PhD, RN, whose career at the College of Nursing on the faculty spanned more than 40 years. She served on the committee that developed the initial Master's degree program as well as the committee that developed the PhD program. She participated in the implementation of the PhD program and remained committed to the need for more well-prepared nurse researchers.

This scholarship will provide assistance to a Traditional PhD student who has completed their first year or a fast track student who has completed their second year of PhD coursework. Fellowship recipients must be in good academic standing.

Hesam Varpaei, PhD Student

MARJORIE A. HOLMES GRADUATE NURSING ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Marjorie Holmes is a graduate of the College of Nursing (CON BSN '60). Her intent was to establish a fund for graduate students to relieve the financial anxiety created by the increased expense of pursuing an advanced degree.

This scholarship provides financial assistance to graduate students who have demonstrated the capacity to achieve educational and professional goals, and the initiative to seek opportunities to further their progress. Recipients must maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA and demonstrate financial need.

Kennedy Bailey, Family NP MSN Student

MARY B. MCCARTNEY ENDOWED STUDY ABROAD SCHOLARSHIP FUND

This scholarship honors Mary Browder McCartney, MA, RN, Assistant Professor Emeritus for the College of Nursing. Mary long held an interest in international student exchange activities. In 1991, she was appointed the College's Director of International Activities and Programming and received the 1994 Ralph H. Smuckler Award for Advancing International Studies and Programs at Michigan State University.

Established by Mary and her husband, James, this scholarship is awarded to students who are enrolled in the College's baccalaureate, baccalaureate completion for registered nurses, or master's in nursing programs. Preference is given to students in the London study abroad program. Students in other study abroad programs are also eligible for consideration.

Abigail Cherian, Traditional BSN Student

MARY MILNER-ESTES ENDOWED NURSING SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship was established by the late Mary J. Milner-Estes (CON BSN '64) whose career in nursing spanned more than 30 years. She began her career as head nurse at Pontiac State Hospital. In 1969, she graduated from Wayne State with a master's in teaching and went on to work at the Veterans Administration Hospital where she served in the capacities of Assistant Chief Nurse and Chief of the Nursing Services throughout the country. She also served on faculty at both Wayne State and Michigan State Universities. In retirement, Mary married her childhood friend, David Estes, loved to travel, and remained active with the MSU Alumni Association, the College's Alumni Association and her church.

This scholarship provides financial assistance to students enrolled in the College of Nursing, who are in good academic standings and have 3rd year status as an undergraduate student or entering into or matriculating through an accelerated nursing program.

Renee Sedmak, Accelerated BSN Student

NANCY ANN MULRENAN AGENTS NURSING SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT

Long remembered for her dedication to the field of nursing and unyielding commitment to the pursuit of excellence, this scholarship was established in the memory of Nancy Ann Mulrenan Agents (CON BSN '69) who passed unexpectedly in 1994.

It provides financial assistance to deserving students in the College's RN to BSN program who have maintained a minimum 3.0 GPA.

Alexa Westfall, RN to BSN Student

RAO AND JOYCE KARETI NURSING SCHOLARSHIP

At the time that this scholarship was established, Joyce Kareti (CON BSN '97) was a student in the College's RN to BSN program. Dedicated to healing and care, Dr. Rao and Joyce Kareti are committed to healthcare and to helping students who, due to financial circumstances, may not be able to achieve their academic goals in nursing.

This scholarship provides financial assistance to students who are pursuing their bachelor's degree through the College's RN to BSN option and are in good academic standing. Preference is given to students who are from ethnically underrepresented populations in the profession.

Sophia Spillson, RN to BSN Student

RETIRED FACULTY ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Originally named the Irene Lynch Scholarship, the Retired Faculty Endowed Scholarship was created in 1993 by Irene Lynch, Louise Brouillette, JoAnn Westrick and Gabriele Kende - all retired College of Nursing faculty. This scholarship was established to honor retired faculty who dedicated their lives to the education of nursing students.

Recipients shall be in good academic standing. Financial need may be considered. This award is intended to support students who have demonstrated the capacity to achieve educational and professional goals.

Cho Aye Zi, Traditional BSN Student

SERGEANT LEONARD BERNARD GRAHAM III NURSING ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Established by his beloved parents, this scholarship honors USMC Sergeant Leonard Bernard Graham III whose goal was to attend the Michigan State University College of Nursing. Leonard enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 2008 to make a difference in the world. He served in Afghanistan and received many citations for his bravery. Leonard always cared about the needs of others before his own. His life ended tragically on September 20, 2013.

To help keep Leonard's dream alive, this scholarship will provide financial assistance to a Michigan State University College of Nursing student. Priority will be given to a student who is an active Marine, reservist, or honorably discharged veteran of any armed branch.

Joe Price, Accelerated BSN Student

TAMMI THERESE STROHMAIER SCHOLARSHIP MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT FUND

Tammi Therese Strohmaier was a junior in the College of Nursing who was killed in a car accident in 1998 at the young age of 21. Though her time here was tragically cut short, Tammi left an important legacy, which included: community involvement, excellence in sports and high academic achievements.

To honor her memory, friends and family of Tammi established this scholarship. Preference is given to undergraduate students who have achieved academic excellence and have contributed to their community through service.

Ally Sims, Traditional BSN Student

VERMEESCH REGNIER NURSING ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship was established by Joe and Carol Vermeesch in honor of their parents (Joseph and Esther Vermeesch, and Earl and Angeline Regnier). It was through the encouragement of their parents that Joe and Carol were able to pursue their goal of a college education. Carol is passionate about nursing education and has inspired students in the undergraduate nursing program at Michigan State University College of Nursing since 1996.

This scholarship intends to provide financial assistance to undergraduate students in the College of Nursing who demonstrate financial need, have maintained a 3.3 or higher GPA and have demonstrated leadership involvement while at MSU.

Ariana Renedo, Traditional BSN Student

WILLIAM AND ANGELINE KEEHNER ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

William and Angeline Keehner valued education and saw it as the key to a rewarding life even though they did not have the opportunity to pursue higher education. Bill worked for Ford Motor Company and Angie was a homemaker. They loved to travel, spend time with their family and friends, and they contributed to their church and community. Through their sacrifice, all three of their children received graduate degrees; two of them are nurses.

Their children established this award to honor their memory and thank them for their love and support.

The scholarship is awarded to a nursing student who aspires to be an excellent clinician, leader, educator, or researcher.

Marie Adkins, Psych Mental Health NP DNP Student

WILLIAM G. STUCKLE AND MARION E. STUCKLE SCHOLARSHIP FUND IN NURSING

This scholarship was established by the late William G. and Marion E. Stuckle in appreciation for the quality healthcare that nurses throughout the world provide. It offers financial assistance to students who are in good academic standing.

Nicole Jiang-Kong, Accelerated BSN Student

Student Thank-You

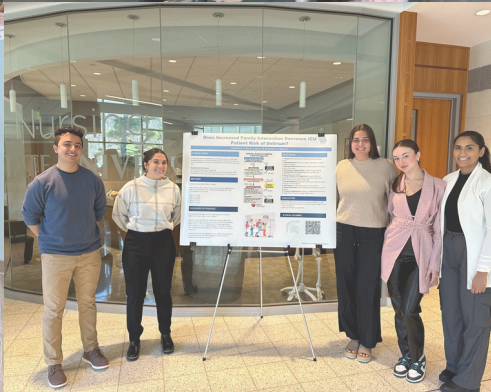
“Having spent eight years as a teacher in China, Canada, and the U.S., I made the decision to transition to a career in nursing upon returning to the U.S. in 2022. This shift from education to nursing represents a significant chapter in my life, one marked by courage and resilience. My motivation stems from a deep-seated belief in the importance of providing compassionate care to all individuals.

Your investment in my education holds immense significance, not just for my personal aspirations, but also for the greater community's health and well-being. I assure you that I will wholeheartedly dedicate myself to the field of healthcare, striving to make a positive impact wherever I can.”

Xiayu Li, Accelerated BSN Student
Recipient of the Susan Varbedian Lucken Nursing Scholarship

Annual

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS



CAROL J. LARSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Kathy Bobay, College of Nursing MSN alum '94, established the Carol J. Larson Endowed Scholarship Fund after her mother, who taught her the importance of lifelong learning.

This fund is meant to assist PhD nursing students in lessening their financial burden.

Callie Harris, PhD Student

COLLEGE OF NURSING SCHOLARSHIP

The mission of the College of Nursing at Michigan State University is to enhance the health of the community by providing excellence in nursing education, research and practice that will advance the profession of nursing and serve as an advocate for optimal healthcare for all people.

Recipients must demonstrate sound academic achievement and leadership involvement in community service activities.

Kendra Colesa, Family NP DNP Student
Anna Fasnacht, Family NP MSN Student
Blair Hayden, Traditional BSN Student
Loveleen Kaur, Adult Gerontology NP DNP Student
Addi Lynch, Nurse Anesthesiology DNP Student
Viko Mumbiro, Accelerated BSN Student
Madison O'Brien, Accelerated BSN Student
Jennifer Raab, Nurse Anesthesiology DNP Student
Riley Thompson, Traditional BSN Student
Cho Aye Zi, Traditional BSN Student

CVS FOUNDATION MSN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

This scholarship fund was founded in an effort to reduce the nationwide shortage of Family Nurse Practitioners. It provides support for College of Nursing students in pursuit of their master's-level education.

Students eligible for this award must be in good academic standing, be interested in a career as a Family Nurse Practitioner, and intern/volunteer his or her time with an organization that supports underserved populations. Part of scholarship dollars are to be awarded to fluent speaking bilingual students.

Satya Subedi, Family NP MSN Student

DEAN CARPENTER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Dean Carpenter received his Nurse Practitioner degree through the College of Nursing, after time in the Navy and extensive experience in the St. Joseph Hospital Emergency Department. In the midst of raising two children with one on the way, and going to school full-time, Carpenter struggled with the heavy tuition costs of the NP program and sought council from an academic advisor. From there, he received a scholarship that allowed him to finish the program in 2002.

Carpenter then began his work as a nurse practitioner at the University of Michigan Health System, and with the NSO Tuminani Center (NSO). Through a series of community programs, NSO provides critical service, medical outreach and housing assistance to adults in the city of Detroit. His work at NSO consisted of providing acute medical care to the homeless, but Carpenter also provided and facilitated donations such as clothing, shoes, and socks to the less advantaged.

Sadly, Carpenter passed away on August 17, 2019. In honor of his lifelong commitment to serving the less-advantaged, Rhonda Carpenter and the family established the Dean Carpenter Memorial Scholarship at the College of Nursing at MSU to preserve his legacy. The recipient of this scholarship will be a nurse practitioner student with a preference in serving economically vulnerable populations. Through his community advocacy and impact on patient lives, Dean Carpenter serves as a model for Spartan Nurses.

Kennedy Bailey, Family NP MSN Student

JAMES E. AND PATRICIA A. OESTERREICHER SCHOLARSHIP FOR EXCELLENCE IN NURSING

James Oesterreicher established this scholarship for worthy and capable students enrolled in the College of Nursing. Preference is given to those who reside in the state of Michigan and demonstrate financial need.

Kass Hollenbeck, Accelerated BSN Student
Madison O'Brien, Accelerated BSN Student

LEHTO-MILLER FAMILY PHD STUDENT AWARD

This PhD fund was established by Drs. Rebecca Lehto and James Miller. Dr. Lehto completed her undergraduate nursing education at Oregon Health Sciences University, Portland OR, and graduate/postdoctoral students at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor prior to coming to Michigan State University. Dr. Lehto's clinical experiences as an oncology nurse sensitized her to the multifaceted challenges that patients with cancer face, problems that contributed to later research direction that focuses on cancer adaptation. Together with her husband, Dr. James Miller (Engineering Professor Emeritus at University of Michigan), they wish to promote the enrollment and continuing support of nurses pursuing their PhD at the MSU College of Nursing, with the hope that such students would build a program of nursing research and a career that would contribute to nursing science in a research-intensive academic program.

PhD students in the College of Nursing who have indicated an interest in research that relates to oncology or chronic illness adaptation including but not limited to mental health, end of life, and palliative care issues will be eligible for this award.

*Autumn Ashley,
PhD Student
Arienne Patano,
PhD Student*

SUSAN VARBEDIAN LUCKEN NURSING SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship was established by Susan Varbedian Lucken, a 1983 BSN graduate of the MSU College of Nursing, who enjoyed a successful and rewarding 30 year nursing career at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, MI.

Established to help deserving students realize their dreams, this annual scholarship will be awarded to two upper level BSN students in their last two years of college, who are Michigan residents and who have a minimum of a 3.4 GPA. The scholarship can be renewed for one additional year as long as the student remains in the BSN program and meets the academic qualifications.

*Alyssa Kunkel, Traditional BSN Student
Xiayu Li, Accelerated BSN Student
Darby Pickford, Traditional BSN Student
Ainsley Woodrum, Traditional BSN Student*

Student Thank-You

“I am committed to making the most of this opportunity and to contributing positively to the field of behavioral health. Thank you for your generosity and belief in my potential. I look forward to the day when I can pay this generosity forward and support future students in achieving their goals.”

Erika Hall, Psych Mental Health DNP Student
Recipient of the Behavioral Health NP Scholarship

VISITING NURSES SCHOLARSHIP

The Visiting Nurses Scholarship, managed by the Capital Region Community Foundation, was established to help defray the costs of education and certification of nursing students, especially in the field of homecare.

*Lily Wing,
Traditional BSN Student*

WILLIAM AND MARGARET ALBRETS NURSING SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship was established by Bill and Margaret Albrets to encourage students who have demonstrated the capacity to achieve educational and professional goals, the

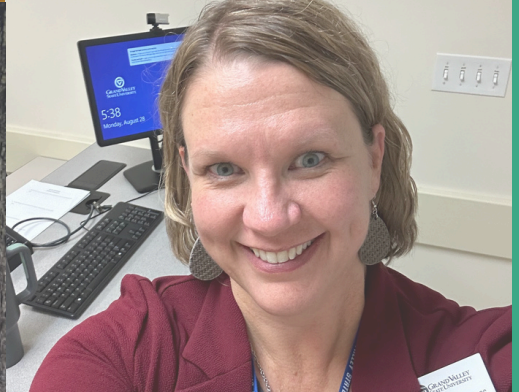
motivation to achieve these goals and the initiative to seek opportunities to further their progress.

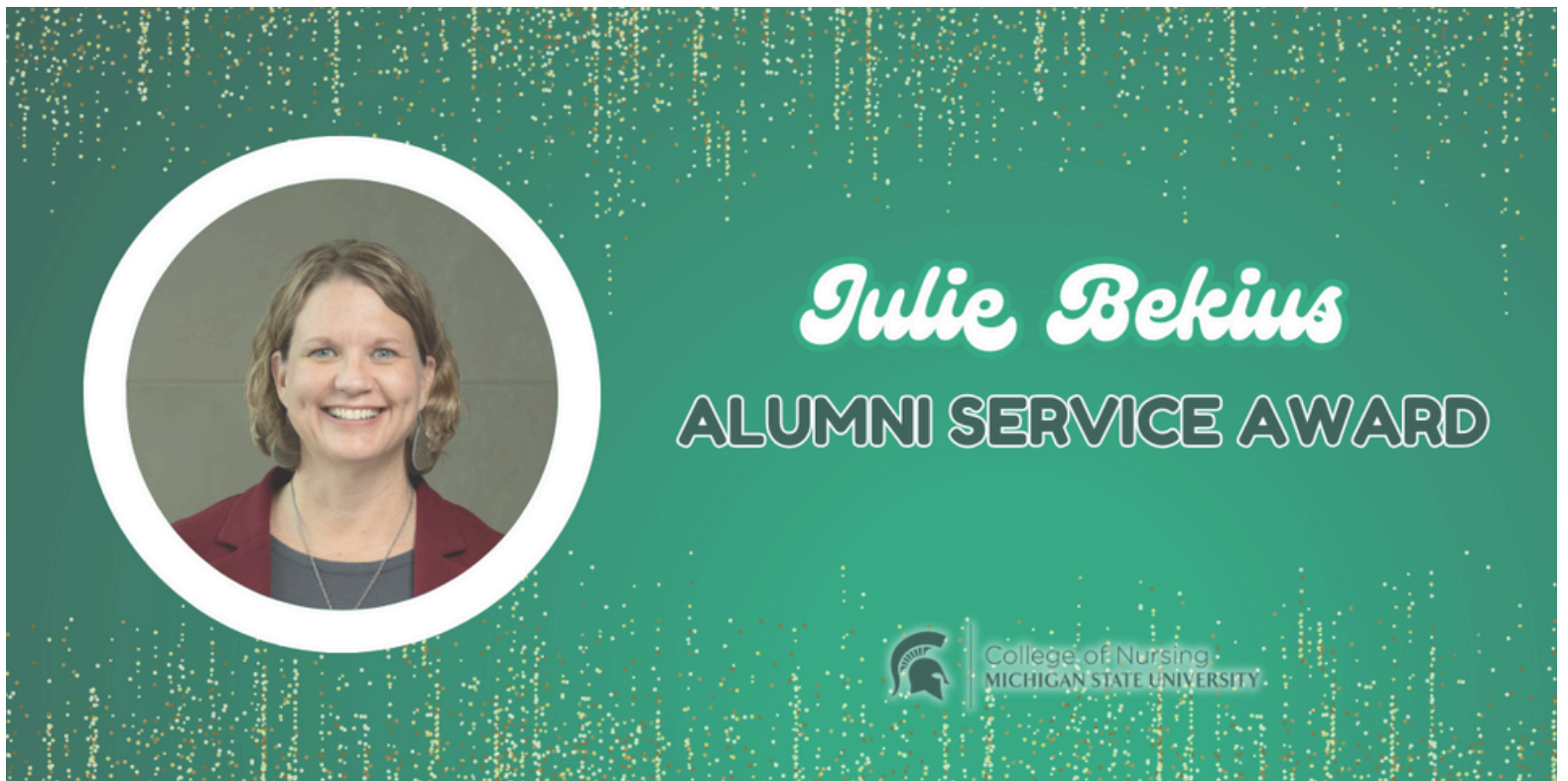
This scholarship provides financial assistance to undergraduate students in the MSU College of Nursing who demonstrate financial need and who have maintained a 3.0 or GPA.

Ariana Renedo, Traditional BSN Student

Alumni

AWARDS





The 2025 Spring Michigan State University College of Nursing Alumni Service Award recipient is Julie Bekius, MSN '01. This award recognizes a nursing alum whose dedicated work and exemplary service have benefited society and the profession of nursing. Recipients have demonstrated community service on a local, state, national or international level.

Julie knew she wanted to be a nurse from a young age. A native of West Michigan, Julie started her nursing journey at Grand Valley State University (GVSU), earning her BSN in 1997. After three years working as an RN, she decided to pursue her dream of becoming a Nurse Practitioner. Julie discovered an MSU program that allowed her to attend classes in Muskegon, Michigan where a MSU professor in East Lansing taught over satellite video. She earned her MSN from the MSU College of Nursing in 2001. Before virtual learning was commonplace, this innovative program allowed Julie to engage in the Spartan experience while working full-time in the Grand Rapids area.

Julie worked for 10 years in several areas of practice including family practice, allergy and asthma, retail medicine, and physical rehabilitation, before finding her passion in palliative care. Though challenging, she considers it an honor and privilege to be with patients through serious illness, often lending emotional support in addition to medical care. When Julie started a dozen years ago, she worked primarily in the inpatient setting for palliative care. At the time, Corewell Health (formerly Spectrum Health) offered only two half-day palliative care clinics per month. Now, the program offers clinics both in person in Grand Rapids, and virtually at five regional cancer centers across Michigan. Julie's advocacy was integral to expanding access to palliative care at Corewell Health.

Julie still works one day a week in the palliative care clinic, but recently, she has shifted her focus toward empowering the next generation of nurses. After receiving her DNP from Missouri-based Maryville University in 2023, Julie earned a tenure-track position at GVSU, where she teaches in the undergraduate and graduate programs through didactic, clinical and simulation courses. She also serves as project advisor to DNP students and faculty advisor for the GVSU student Chapter of Michigan Council of Nurse Practitioners (MiCNP).

In 2024, Julie co-led a study abroad program to Cape Coast, Ghana, where BSN students provided care in community clinics while being immersed in the culture. She also participated in a medical mission trip through her church to Tima, Egypt, where they held six free medical clinics in the surrounding communities. In 2025, Julie became the chair of the Study Abroad Task Force at the GVSU Kirkhof College of Nursing.

Julie is also engaged in Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, Hospice and Palliative Nursing Association and the MiCNP.

Overall, Julie believes that service is at the heart of nursing. She is grateful for the support she has received from her family and mentors throughout her career and education journey, which has allowed her to follow her passion for helping others, whether it be on a local or global level.



Alexis Skuras, BSN '18, DNP '23, is the Spring 2025 Michigan State University College of Nursing Recent Graduate Achievement awardee. This award recognizes an alum who graduated within the past 10 years and has obtained a high level of professional accomplishments including but not limited to: contributions to their employer, history of promotion, military accomplishments, continued education, or published work.

Alexis is an educator, student and doer. From a young age, Alexis had always thought she would become a teacher. Upon arriving at Michigan State University, she found that nursing would be the perfect field to do just that – to serve as a teacher to her patients. Alexis received her BSN from the MSU College of Nursing in 2018 and then worked as an RN at Harper Hospital in Detroit.

Following her passion for education, Alexis returned to MSU to earn her Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist DNP in 2023, finding it to be the perfect combination of patient care, evidence-based practice and nursing education. As someone who loves to learn and is the first college graduate of her family, Alexis considers earning her doctorate her biggest achievement.

This accomplishment has launched her into the next phase of her career. Alexis is currently a clinical nurse specialist at the 501c3 non-profit organization, Recovery Mobile Clinic (RMC) and is the first to join their team since it was founded in 2020. The clinic specializes in the care of patients with substance use disorders. The RMC takes an integrated care approach to address basic primary care needs and mental health to set up patients for success in their recovery, such as by administering 1,159 of the revolutionary Vivitrol shots in 2024, which manage cravings and prevent relapse.

Alexis also teaches undergraduate students part-time as an assistant professor at MSU's Detroit Campus during the summers. Additionally, she mentors DNP students from MSU and Saginaw Valley State University (SVSU), often taking them on the road with the RMC to gain hands-on experience.

Earning her doctorate was not where Alexis ended her education. She is currently enrolled at SVSU to earn her psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner certification. Her favorite way to spend her spare time is having fun with her one-eyed Pitbull, Fetty.

Upon reflection, Alexis called her years as an MSU student the best time of her life, attributing the friends she made and the mentorship she received from faculty, such as Jackeline Iseler and Emily McIntire. Alexis lives out the Spartan will by working toward a future with less stigma and barriers to care for people with substance use disorders.



Margaret Muir, BSN '83, is the recipient of the Spring 2025 Michigan State University College of Nursing Distinguished Alumni Award. This award recognizes an alum who has advanced the nursing profession through professional accomplishments and commitment to nursing education, practice and research.

When Margaret embarked on a trip to North Carolina with two fellow MSU nursing students shortly before graduation, she never could have predicted how a stop at Duke University would change the trajectory of her life. After earning her BSN from the MSU College of Nursing in 1983, she moved to North Carolina and has been employed with the Duke University Health System for the last 41 years.

After serving as a staff nurse and an educator at the university hospital, Margaret was encouraged to transition into a role at Duke Regional Hospital, tasked with building trust between the hospital and community. Unsure, yet determined, Margaret took the leap into community care. Twenty-five years later, she continuously goes above and beyond as their patient experience officer to ensure patients receive the best care possible.

Margaret believes that the key to exceptional patient care is to first provide staff with proper resources and support — from trainings on how to yield the best patient experience survey results to “just because” coffee for hospital staff on their way into work. After realizing that there was a gap in resources for providing culturally competent care to transgender patients, Margaret made it the focus of her DNP thesis, which she earned from the University of North Carolina Greensboro in 2018. Now, she regularly teaches classes on transgender care to healthcare workers, nursing students and other community leaders.

Margaret is consistently seeking opportunities to serve the community. She has organized 33 American Red Cross blood drives and given 13 gallons of blood herself. After noticing that nurses were purchasing clothes for patients with their own money, she applied for a grant to open a Community Caring Closet at Duke Regional Hospital, where staff could pick up clothes for patients who needed them. She receives \$10,000 annually in grant funding to keep the closet stocked with items for patients in need.

Margaret may have built a successful career in North Carolina, but she remains close to her Michigan roots, crediting her mother for encouraging her to pursue nursing at MSU. Furthermore, Margaret credits her MSU CON education for laying the foundation of the innovative mindset that drives her to always go one step further in caring for her patients and community. Margaret exemplifies the Spartan spirit in all she does.

Thank You!

TO OUR:

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Donors

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Faculty and Staff

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Friends of the College of Nursing

Together, the Spartan Nursing
community is committed to creating a

FAR BETTER WORLD!





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