

# Notes on Northern Nursing



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## Celebrate...Good Times....Come On!

### School of Nursing Pins May 2017 Graduates

The title reference to the *Kool & the Gang* song “Celebration” captures the excitement of the pinning ceremony for the newest group of Northern Nurses held on May 13, 2017 at the Egyptian Theater.

The 56 students walked across the stage to receive the traditional NIU nursing pin. It was a joyous, emotional and fitting finish to nursing school and the students’ undergraduate NIU experience.

*Dean Derryl Block (right) welcomes friends and family to the ceremony.*



*Sandy Wolf, Instructor, delivers the keynote remarks on her 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a nurse and on the occasion of her retirement.*

*Wally Swenson made the Senior Address for the student body.*



*Dr. Linda Taylor pins graduating student Emily Bunton*





## Service Abroad

NIU instructor JoEllen Ryan has a heart for service. While many are enjoying Spring Break each March, she is often leading a group of students on a medical mission to another country. As founder, president and chair of the board of directors of the LaTortuga Foundation, she is a busy person with a passion. The Foundation, which was founded after JoEllen discovered a need in the Mexican village of Emiliano Zapata for medical care, is growing and expanding under her leadership. The passion to help resulted in the establishment of a much needed medical clinic and library. The Foundation trained five local members in managing the clinic and they handle the day to day operations now.

This year the group went to the village of Chiapas, which is predominantly Mayan. They work in that village and a few others in the area without official names. The group consisted of eight nursing students and six NIU alumni, led by Ms. Ryan.

The Foundation has strong ties to NIU, with several members on the board of directors, to include Alyssa Thomson and Ulysses Diaz. Over the last five years, the Foundation has sponsored 10 trips to Mexico and 103 nursing students.



*NIU nursing students with children of Chiapas*



*Chiapas, Mexico*

*NIU nursing student Jordan Lindsey raises the spirits of a young patient after she realigned his broken elbow, splinted it using a tree branch and ACE wrap, then converted a knee brace into a sling. THAT'S problem-solving!!!*





## Service Abroad (continued)

Below is a first-hand account by NIU nursing student Hannah Garippo. Hannah recently graduated in May 2017, but will likely remember this experience for a long time.

**Hannah Garippo**

Re: Hello

To: Latortuga

4/4/17

[Details](#)

HG

Nursing is more than band-aids and medicine, it is about building relationships and surpassing our differences to critically think and help provide health and education to those in need. During spring break, the La Tortuga Foundation took eight nursing students and six NIU alumni to Chiapas, Mexico to provide healthcare, education, and happiness. This by far is the best experience of my life and I will never forget it. Here we stayed for seven days and traveled to other villages to provide healthcare. As a nursing student about to graduate, it was an amazingly valuable experience for all of us. It allowed us to have patient interaction, helped us practice our head to toe assessments, had us critically think and decide on a plan of care and educate our patients. We also learned to think on our feet and adapt to a variety of obstacles we do not regularly face at home. Not only did we help provide health care and glasses, we created relationships and friendships with the people of Chiapas. They helped us practice Spanish, and invited us into their homes, and we learned about their culture and the communities of Chiapas. We played soccer in the hilly streets, practiced reading, took silly pictures, and taught the kids to how to play "Go Fish" (or Vas Pescado in Spanish). At the end of the week a celebration was held in our honor, thanking us for all our hard work. As they sang and thanked us, there were few dry eyes in the room as we were grateful for this humbling experience that had come to an end.



*Hannah Garippo at pinning*



*At the World Heritage site Palenque*



# Donor Funds Learning Aid

Thanks to the generous donation of Janiece Bollie, our students have a new educational aid. The donation helped fund the creation of an “edema leg” by a specialist in make-up effects. The leg was created to not only look real, but provide different visual cues depending on where the examiner pushes on the skin during assessment. Bollie, who faces some medical challenges herself, said she likes to donate to causes related to her own medical issues; her hope is to help someone in the future who has the same condition.

The leg will be made available to all instructors and faculty and will also be used in the simulation lab to support some of the scenarios students experience there. This experiential learning tool will help take the students’ learning experience to a new level. The School of Nursing students and faculty would like thank Bollie for her thoughtful donation!



*A custom “edema leg” created by Jason Kain, a specialist in make-up effects, thanks to the donation of Janiece Bollie.*



*Janiece Bollie.*

[go.niu.edu/dnp](http://go.niu.edu/dnp)

It's time to take the next step.

# DNP

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

Post-master's and post-bachelor's programs available



Northern Illinois University



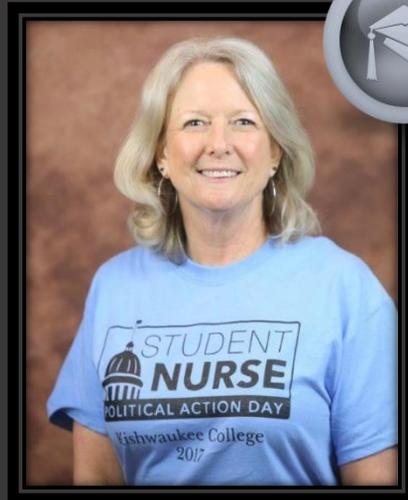


# Alumni Spotlight

Bette Chilton, Class of '82, '89

**Hometown:** Forest Park, IL (Proviso East High School)

Being accepted to NIU's nursing program in 1978 was a great opportunity coming from a blue collar upbringing with parents who never attended college. Leaving an urban setting to come out to DeKalb was a very new experience for me. My father encouraged me to become a nurse and I just followed his direction not knowing what I wanted to do. The faculty at NIU truly allowed me to experience this unique profession. I was immediately challenged and knew this was something I could love for life. After graduating in 1982, I returned to Chicago to work. I then returned to DeKalb to marry my husband of 30 years who owns a local business. My first thought was to return to NIU to receive a MS in nursing.



*Bette Chilton, Dean of Health and Education at Kishwaukee College*

**Background:** My experience began at Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago right out of college. I also worked at Shriner's Hospital and did pediatric home care while in graduate school. Other clinical work included obstetrical nursing at Copley Memorial Hospital and work as a Public Health Nurse. I returned to the NIU School of Nursing in 1992 as a nursing instructor in maternal child health. One of my greatest achievements was the work I did with Mary Uscian and Dr. Sara Barger in writing and receiving funding for a \$775,000 grant from the Dept. of Health and Human Services Division of Nursing. Through this funding the School of Nursing opened Tri-County Community Health Center, a nurse-managed clinic for underserved populations. I served as the academic coordinator and director for this clinic from 1994-1997. This clinic still exists on the Kishwaukee College campus and is owned and operated through the KishHealth System. Low income populations are still served.

I have taught maternal child nursing, fundamentals of nursing, community health nursing and medical surgical nursing at both NIU and Kishwaukee College. For the past 15 years I have served in administrative positions. I served as the Director of Personal Health Services for the DeKalb County Health Department as the Senior Leader for all public health nursing services and for the past five years I have had the honor and pleasure of working for Kishwaukee College as the Dean of Health and Education/ Director of Nursing.

**Hobbies:** Walking, yoga, biking, swimming, reading & gardening

**Advice to current nursing students:** Recognize that you are with people during a most vulnerable and often frightening time of their life. Listen to what people are saying and always think about what the "best" action should be. Remember we are the most trusted profession, live up to that expectation.

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Welcome

## Lindsey Munguia

The School of Nursing would like to welcome Lindsey Munguia to the team. Munguia will begin this month as our new Graduate Internship Coordinator. She comes to us from Swedish American Hospital in Rockford where she worked as a Clinical Informatics Educator. She enjoys spending the weekends outside with her husband and twin 5 year old boys. Welcome to the team, Lindsey!



## Lily Chen



In addition to working as an instructor at the NIU School of Nursing, Lily Chen also serves as the president of the Illinois chapter of United Chinese Americans (UCA), which organized and hosted its first-ever Asian Parents - American Children event at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont in April. Over 250 people were in attendance. Guest speakers from the Harvard Medical School, the Harvard Asian-American Alumni Alliance and the Calvin J. Li Memorial Foundation gave presentations at the event, which focused on how Asian parents can address the emotional needs of their children. Our own Lily Chen helped to organize the event and served as its Master of Ceremonies.



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# RESEARCH

Dr. Jie Chen recently received a grant through the Joan E. Wood Award for Nursing Faculty Research. The research project will involve comparing three patient transfer devices and the amount of physical stress that caregivers experience as a result of handling those devices. It will also examine differences in the head impact of bedridden patients during a lateral transfer between a bed and a stretcher.

Caregivers in nursing environments are at a high risk of sustaining occupational injuries related to overexertion. Also, high head impacts during a lateral transfer can be very painful for patients of an advanced age. Through this research, Dr. Chen hopes to provide the medical world with valuable data that will hopefully result in a decrease in both phenomena. Congratulations, Dr. Chen!

## Dr. Jie Chen



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