

## From the Chairperson



**Adejoke B. Ayoola, Ph.D., RN, FAAN**  
**Chair and Professor of Nursing**

I thank God for our students, the nursing professors and the staff of the nursing department for all their work that helped us to successfully complete this academic year. The 2020/2021 academic year required high level of creativity, patience, and collaborations especially due to the COVID-19 challenges.

Teaching virtually requires some creativity to have full student engagement and learning. All our faculty members put in extra efforts, and had to think outside the box to make this possible during this pandemic. Patience is one of the virtues that we often discuss in the nursing program and all our students and faculty/staff lived this core virtue this last year. The faculty members and students had to be patient during this transition to adapt to some tough changes to reduce the risk of COVID-19 infections on campus. Our collaboration was at different levels—within and outside of the Calvin University.

## SMANN Grant awarded to Stephanie Westing



Every year the State of Michigan Association of Neonatal Nurses (SMANN) grants 4 nursing students (two from each side of the state) a scholarship to use towards their nursing career. This year Stephanie Westing (Class of '21) is one of the recipients. She was drawn to the scholarship due to her interest in the field of neonatology which she hopes to pursue after graduation. Neonatology combines her passions: critical care, emotional care and spiritual care of the family. At Calvin she learned that vocation and occupation meet where the need is greatest and the few are called. In the world of nursing, Stephanie hopes to integrate this point of view by obtaining an advanced degree in neonatology with an emphasis in palliative care. She aspires to aid in the spiritual and emotional care of the family by facilitating beauty in bereavement care of

the infant. She is grateful to SMANN for choosing her to receive this scholarship and to her professors for their support and guidance.

Stephanie's academic advisor, Prof. Jaci Lubbers described her as a bright and motivated student who took advantage of many opportunities while at Calvin. She was a member of the Artist Collaborative; a program which helps students collaborate to produce written, performing, and visual art as well as connect to the art community in Grand Rapids. As a part of this collaborative, she studied in Ireland during an interim following a semester abroad experience in Hungary.

While in the nursing program, Stephanie served on the department Student Development Committee. She has worked on campus in the admissions office and off campus as a Patient Care Assistant at Mercy Health/St. Mary's.

Upon graduation, Stephanie is joining the nurse residency program at University of Wisconsin-Madison. She will work in the Cardiothoracic Surgery, Intensive Care, and Transplant Program. We are excited to watch Stephanie launch her nursing career!

# Faculty Update

## Jaclynn Lubbers, DNP, RN, CPNP



“Welcome to the wonderful way God created children”. This is the opening line of Professor Lubbers Nursing 327 class: Nursing care of Infants, Children, and Adolescents. Professor Lubbers describes herself as a reluctant pediatric nurse, at one time declaring “I am NOT going to work in pediatrics”. Through a series of mentors and experiences that only God could orchestrate, she fell in love with pediatrics toward the end of her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree at what was then the Hope-Calvin Department of Nursing.

In 1994, her first job was as a staff nurse at a Children’s Hospital and the next six years were a whirlwind of learning, growing and pursuing further education. In 2000, she traded in her acute care scrubs for a move to pediatric primary care as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner. She spent the next several years falling in love with watching children and families grow through relationships that were nurtured over time. After completing her doctoral degree in 2012, Professor Lubbers joined the faculty at Calvin University; an opportunity to share her love for pediatric nursing within the mission of the University.

One of the many things that drew Professor Lubbers to Calvin was the importance the Nursing Department placed on Advanced Practice Nursing roles and settings. Knowing she wouldn’t have to give up her Pediatric Nursing Practitioner position to join the Calvin faculty “sealed the deal”. In her experience, practicing pediatric nursing in this way and teaching in the classroom are mutually reinforcing. Teaching has shaped her practice and practice has changed her teaching. Having real life and recent examples of diagnoses, interventions, family dynamics, and how the social determinants of health impact health is priceless. Working within an organization that is always changing to meet the needs of children and their families and working with a university to educate future nurses to be agents of renewal is energizing to Professor Lubbers.

In the summer of 2021, Professor Lubbers was awarded a \$10,000 grant to address the growing mental health needs of adolescents, which have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. This work will involve using an evidence-based intervention to redesign the delivery of primary care to better meet the needs of this population. This work is an extension of her doctoral work and she is excited to take on this new challenge. Teaching about evidence-based practice in the classroom, implementing these principles in her practice setting, and then being able to share this work with students is yet another example of the “win-win” of faculty in practice settings.



**Joyce Adams '12**

Looking back, there are several things I appreciate about the Calvin Department of Nursing. I will give three examples. First, I appreciate that I received a comprehensive education. Besides teaching me to become a phenomenal nurse, my nursing education included research experience, leadership and community engagement, and international exposure. These experiences helped me to develop and grow my passion for improving maternal health. Second, I appreciate the individual advising and mentoring Calvin offered. During my time at Calvin, every student had a faculty advisor. My advisor quickly became a mentor and was instrumental in my decision to pursue a PhD and a career as a nurse scientist. Finally, I appreciate the awesome faculty I had who helped me realize that nursing is not just about working downstream, but that upstream solutions are just as critical. Not only has this influenced my work, but has also influenced my teaching. I am currently a faculty mem-

ber at the University of Notre Dame's Keough School of Global Affairs. My research is dedicated to improving postpartum health outcomes among women most vulnerable to maternal mortality.

-Yenupini Joyce Adams, PhD, RNC-MNN



**Angela Renkema '04**

Calvin provided me with a strong nursing foundation by offering various clinical experiences across patient settings. As I reflect on the classes that I took, the community experiences always come to mind first. They had the greatest impact in shaping my career—experiences from community clinicals, visiting an assigned family, and connecting with patients after discharge. Although I did not realize it at the time, these experiences shaped my definition of health and how nursing contributes to it. As I started practicing, I realized that to get patients to their optimal health, you need to provide quality care in the hospital and address the community and social factors outside of the hospital. Caring for a patient is not only changing a chest tube dressing and giving them

metoprolol; it is also providing medication education, addressing medication adherence issues, explaining what fluid restrictions are and how to comply with them at home. The foundation that Calvin provided me in the community setting continues to shape my career. I decided to go back to school for my MPH because I wanted to continue identifying ways to help patients improve their health across multiple care settings and in their communities.

After graduation, Angela Renkema worked as a bedside nurse for six years in cardiovascular, thoracic surgery and medical cardiology. In 2010 she became a clinical care facilitator responsible for patient outcomes on a geriatric medical floor. In 2012 she became a nurse educator/nursing professional development specialist, and covered various specialty areas in the hospital. Additionally, she was a part-time nurse residency program (NRP) coordinator and led the NRP program to CCNE Accreditation. In 2018 she joined a healthcare performance improvement company where she is currently the programmatic advisor director of a national nurse residency program. She graduated in 2019 from the University of South Florida with an MPH in epidemiology. She holds national certifications in Nursing Professional Development, Cardiac Vascular Nursing and is Certified in Public Health.





## Kendra Kamp '14

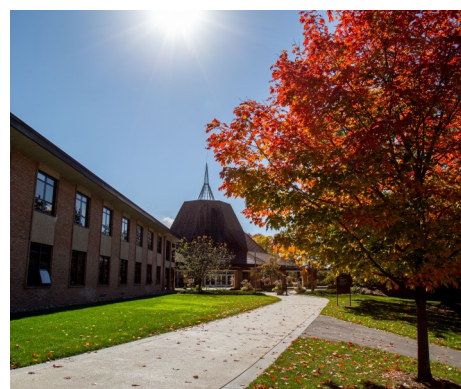
You know those experiences that change your career? For me, it was walking into Dr. Ayoola's office my Sophomore year at Calvin. Previously, I spent my summers working at a Mack truck dealership. It was a wonderful opportunity, but I realized I needed nursing-related experiences if I wanted a career in nursing. When I asked Dr. Ayoola for summer nursing job recommendations, she told me about a summer research experience in nursing. Although I started Calvin planning to become a Nurse Practitioner, God had other plans. I spent my summer conducting research and then during the school year worked on Dr. Ayoola's PREKNOP project. My research experiences as an undergraduate student at Calvin provided excellent preparation to pursue a career in nursing research including obtaining my PhD from Michigan State University and a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Washington. My undergraduate experience influenced my research career which is aimed at improving gastrointestinal symptoms among individuals with ulcerative colitis, Crohn's dis-

ease, and irritable bowel syndrome. It also informs how I approach teaching and mentoring the next generation of nurses in my new role as an Assistant Professor.

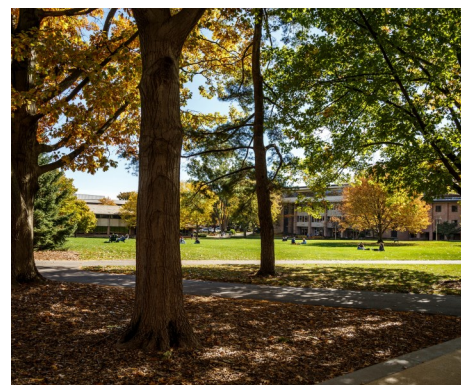


## Kayla Innes '12

After graduating with her BSN and a Spanish minor from Calvin College (now University), Kayla worked in both adult and pediatric emergency departments for 3 years. In October 2015, Kayla raised \$18,000 to fund a 14-month-long service with Mercy Ships in Madagascar and Benin, West Africa. Onboard the *M/V Africa Mercy*, Kayla worked as an inpatient pediatric ward nurse for four months before transitioning to the screening team. The screening team is responsible for finding and selecting surgical candidates for free surgeries onboard the vessel and coordinating the patients' transportation, housing, and meal logistics with the Ministry of Health. Kayla's team screened close to 20,000 patients within a 10-month period, using both hands-on assessments and innovative technology that allowed them to reach patients in remote places. After returning from Mercy Ships, Kayla



worked in a federally qualified health center that provides primary care for Spanish-speaking patients. Although she loved to strengthen her Spanish skills and practice health care in the community, Kayla left Clínica Santa Maria to pursue a Master of Public Health degree at Harvard University, concentrating in Global Health and Humanitarian Studies, Ethics, and Human Rights. While at Harvard, she designed and implemented a qualitative research study with Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders) that explored the collaborations and communication among actors working with refugees in Lesbos, Greece. Kayla currently works at Grand Valley State University as a Project manager for a federal grant and is working on her DNP in the Health Systems Leadership track. Kayla aspires to continue global work and potentially start a health center in a low-income country.





# Collaborative Projects



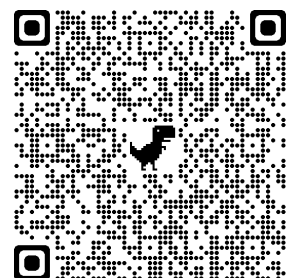
Calvin University Environmental Safety unit, through the coordination of Jennifer Ambrose and Calvin University Health Services through the coordination of Dr. Laura Champion team up with the Nursing Department to provide N95 facemasks fitting for all the nursing students. This teamwork made it possible for our students to safely learn and have clinical in person in our partnering hospitals during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Serving in the Community



The nursing department also collaborated with external organizations- local hospitals and Kent County health department to administer COVID-19 vaccines at different sites in Grand Rapids including the Devos place at downtown, Grand Rapids and Calvin University health services. Our students, faculty and staff were truly hands and feet of Christ through various service-and-learning experiences in the Grand Rapids community. The nursing students helped to give COVID-19 vaccines under the supervision of faculty and staff to bless our community during this pandemic. To read more about the full story of the vaccination sessions scan this QR code or visit [https://calvin.edu/news/archive/nursing-majors-gain-meaningful-experience-during-pandemic?](https://calvin.edu/news/archive/nursing-majors-gain-meaningful-experience-during-pandemic?fbclid=IwAR0bVcDPGB3oGg4I423AtoytZS25ET3mr9o5i0iGIXuZStjcE9mROx6umM0)

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# 2021 HONORS GRADUATES

We celebrate our three senior nursing honors students!

Our honors students spent their time at Calvin exploring different health issues and presenting at different nursing conferences at local, regional and national venues.



## Xiaoxuan Priscilla Liu

Priscilla's final honors presentation was titled: "What Does Effective Imply? An Exploration of Effective ED Management Through the Lens of Nursing Metaparadigm Concepts – Person and Health"

## Joan Nakakande



Joan's final honors presentation was titled: "Interventions to mitigate racial disparities in preterm deliveries: A Review Of The Literature Using The Metaparadigms Of Persons, Health, Nursing, And The Core Virtue Of Justice."

## Lizzie Rinke



Lizzie's final honors presentation was titled: "The Exploration of Type II Diabetes Through the Metaparadigm Concepts."

## We need your Support!

The nursing department invites you to share your skills and knowledge gained over the years to enrich the next generation of nurses!

We would love to highlight your stories in our future issues and on our Facebook page.

Please, send your stories to [nursing@calvin.edu](mailto:nursing@calvin.edu)

We plan to continue to develop the simulation labs, thanks to all of our donors. There are opportunities for ongoing donations to the college for nursing activities/programs through the grants and development office.

There are increasing research opportunities in the department.

There are plans for graduate programs and curriculum revision.

**Email:** [nursing@calvin.edu](mailto:nursing@calvin.edu) with your ideas and questions

**Facebook:** Calvin University Nursing Department

**Instagram:** [calvin-nursing](https://www.instagram.com/calvin-nursing)