



## TRINITY ALUMNI NURSING ASSOCIATION (TANA) BOARD MEMBERS

Pictured in the top row, from left to right:  
Jamie Hop '12, Jill Nikkel '91; Tina Decker '06  
and Mandee Van Kampen '13. In the front row,  
from left to right: Kristi Boniconro '92, Amy  
Nagelkirk '92 and Lorinda Lindemulder '86.



## **GREETINGS FROM THE TANA BOARD**

The Trinity Alumni Nursing Association (TANA) was established in 2014. Our mission is to support the Department of Nursing through student-related activities, public relations, and fundraising, and to foster personal and professional relationships among alumni.

The TANA Board is excited to introduce you to a wonderful idea presented to us by a friend of our nursing program, Mr. Marv Roelofs, that he titled The TANA Pledge. Whether you graduated in one of our first classes over thirty years ago, are a new graduate, or are somewhere in between, please take some time to explore this booklet. We hope it will inspire you to remember with appreciation your time at Trinity.

## THE ENDOWMENT FUND VISION OF MR. MARV ROELOFS

I created this TANA pledge based upon the presentations given by Trinity nursing alumni at their alumni brunch on November 4, 2017. The testimonies given of the nursing care services they provide were powerful. I, and others in attendance, heard exciting and enthusiastic comments about the nursing profession. Their testimonies were an enthusiastic endorsement of the Trinity nursing program and its Christian perspective of service.

My proposal is to set and achieve a \$500,000 to \$1 million TANA endowment fund for the nursing program. An annual 5% distribution would generate \$25,000 to \$50,000 annually for scholarships and nursing program special equipment.

This TANA endowment will stand as a gift of appreciation for the education and professional skills each graduate gained through completion of Trinity's nursing program. I'm confident the majority of the 1,000 alumni, along with new graduates each year, will endorse "The TANA Pledge."

I, Marv Roelofs, and my wife, Dr. Lois Roelofs, Professor of Nursing Emeritus, will give \$10,000 to encourage alumni signing "The TANA Pledge."

Sincerely,

Marv Roelofs

## WHAT IS AN ENDOWMENT?

An endowment is a fund similar to a savings account that accrues interest. TANA currently has approximately \$25,000 in its endowment fund. The interest earned on this amount allows us to award a \$1,000.00 nursing scholarship each year. The goal of The TANA Pledge is to grow the fund so that TANA can award yearly scholarships to many more students using only the interest accrued on the principal of the fund.



**MR. MARY ROELOFS  
& DR. LOIS ROELOFS  
CREATORS OF THE  
TANA PLEDGE**



## FINANCIAL CREED OF MARV ROELOFS

When I was in college, I read a pamphlet titled “How the Richest Man in Babylon Gained his Wealth” that told of how the richest man put the first 10% of his paycheck into an investment and then lived on the remaining 90%.

I adopted this philosophy with an additional change. When I received my paycheck, I set the first 10% for charity, the second 10% for an investment, and then lived on the remaining 80%. At times it was difficult to keep this plan; however, over the years most of the time it was achieved. I realized what I wanted with my eyes usually included much that I did not need. In addition, The Bible, in its teachings that God has many blessings that He/She wants to give each of us and “The Prayer of Jabez” by Bruce Wilkerson have been solid principles for me.

Wilkerson's book expands on Jabez's prayer in I Chronicles 4:10:

*And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, “Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain.” So God granted him what he requested. (p. 93)*

Lois and I have shared this idea with Trinity nursing students who have been recipients of scholarships from the Hoitenga-Roelofs Nursing Scholarship fund (one) and from the Marv and Lois Roelofs Freshman Nursing Scholarship fund (four). It is our hope and prayer that the Trinity graduates making The TANA Pledge will experience similar blessings.

## REFLECTIONS FROM OUR FELLOW NURSING ALUMNI

“ One of my first memories of Trinity is Dr. Sliemers helping me rearrange my freshman schedule. As a freshman with the last name starting with a V, class choices were limited. She helped me find an elective that would fit into my schedule and talked to a professor so I could get into a class I needed. I was thankful for this help that a smaller college offered.

Nursing school was challenging and some tears were shed, but it was also filled with laughter. We figured out how to give a bath, take vitals, and perform health assessments. I remember being so nervous for the first clinical. My friend and I decided to go into the room together until Dr. Terrell reminded us that it only takes one person to check a temperature.

Clinicals in the Chicago area provided so many learning opportunities. I've been blessed to work at one of the hospitals where I had clinicals.

It has been wonderful to come back to campus and see a growing campus. The nursing lab is amazing. I've been blessed to be involved with current nursing students as a prayer partner.”



**LYN (VAN GOOR) MULDER '97**

“ I grew up on a small farm outside of rural Orange City, Iowa and knew from an early age that I wanted to be a nurse. When I started high school, I took as many health and science classes as I could. At the age of 15, I took a course at my local community college to become a Certified Nurse's Assistant and secured positions at my local 24-bed hospital. In addition to this position, I also became a Respite Care Provider for children through Hope Haven, an organization that works with individuals with intellectual and physical disabilities. The combination of these jobs further developed my passion for healthcare and providing care for vulnerable populations.

My senior year of high school came around and I began my college search. My goals were to obtain admission to a BSN program in an urban environment, with a faith-based program as an added perk. I met my TCC admissions counselor at a friend's graduation party, and a few short weeks later, I arrived in Chicago (my first time ever – 9 hours from home!) for a visit. By walking through the campus, meeting with professors, and seeing the advantages of a Christian program in an urban environment, I knew that Trinity would be part of my nursing journey.

My time at Trinity was fruitful in so many areas. I became involved in Residence Life as a Resident Assistant, sang with Honors Ensemble and Concert Choir, was an officer for Nursing Student Organization for 3 years, and so much more. I made lifelong friends, became invested in a thriving church community... and oh yeah . . . went to all my classes too. 😊

My nursing classes were rooted in Christian worldview, filled with opportunities and discussions about ministering to the sick and hurting in a broken world. The use of simulation was crucial to both my skills and critical thinking development.”

"My professors not only knew me by name, but they empowered me to say 'yes' to big opportunities. This encouragement to say 'yes' has been a hallmark of my career as a nurse. I was selected for a competitive Nurse Extern program at Mayo Clinic between my junior and senior year, and secured a position as a New Graduate Nurse at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital in Nashville, Tennessee, following graduation.

Trinity pushed me to explore what areas of nursing I am passionate about. My clinical experiences at Trinity affirmed my passion for pediatric critical care. After I graduated, I worked for two years in the Pediatric Emergency Department at Vanderbilt, and then moved back to Chicago for a position with Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago. Since 2014, I have worked in various capacities within the institution, and most recently transitioned to a position within the Critical Care Transport Team. In this role, our team stabilizes and transports neonatal and pediatric patients by air or ground. In May of 2018, I completed my Master's of Science in Nursing from Elmhurst College, with a focus on Clinical Nurse Leadership. I hope to one day work with nursing students in a college setting and encourage them to say 'yes' to opportunities within their nursing journey."



**JENN VANDER VEEN '12**

Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's  
Hospital of Chicago  
Chicago, IL

“ One thing that helped me with my nursing career was the encouraging, non-punitive, and mentoring attitude of the faculty. I've seen so many older nurses 'eat their young', being mean to new nurses, setting them up to fail, and throwing them to the wolves so to speak. I've had the opportunity to precept, train, and mentor many new nurses and nursing students and I feel I do this well, plus I enjoy sharing what I know.

I was a transfer student after failing a class at Rush University. Not only was I devastated by failing that class, I was a single mother and had no choice but to keep going. I know God led me to Trinity because it was closer to home, the class size was much smaller, and the personal support from the staff was awesome. A few of the professors even allowed me to bring my son to a few classes when I didn't have a sitter. They'd set him up in the back of the class with a movie and allow me to focus on their lecture. I, in turn, have been able to pay this forward and babysit for other single moms while they take classes.

I'm actually working at South Suburban Hospital now with one of my nursing professors, as her peer now.

I also remember all of us in our Trinity blues going from clinical to clinical and always being told 'there's something different about you girls, different in a good way.' This always made me feel good."



**ERIKA VAN DYKE '03**

South Suburban Hospital  
Hazel Crest, IL

“ It is an honor and a high privilege to be able to walk alongside people in the most emotionally intimate times of their lives as a Labor and Delivery Nurse. It’s almost always the highest of highs we witness but occasionally we deal with the lowest of lows, and those instances are the times where I am most thankful for my time at Trinity – I am able to be the hands and feet of Jesus through my nursing care.

At Trinity I learned to treat patients with respect, dignity, and compassion – these characteristics of my care are especially important in a Labor and Delivery setting where patients can often feel vulnerable or not in control. It is important to me to walk alongside patients and their families to make the birth of their child the best experience it can possibly be.”



**JAMIE HOP '12**  
Labor & Delivery Nurse  
Spectrum Health  
Grand Rapids, MI

“ Trinity truly prepared me to be a Christian nurse. This was proven through an experience I had teaching at a public university. A student approached me in the operating room and said 'It's so nice to have a Christian nursing professor.' I responded with 'How do you know I am a Christian?' And she responded with, 'It's obvious based upon your attitude and actions.' I hadn't done anything different I was being the nurse I was taught to be – a Christian nurse. Not a nurse who just so happened to be a Christian.

Working at a level III perinatal center means that I see a lot of very difficult situations. Trinity helped me grow in my faith and truly learn to lean on the Lord in these difficult circumstances. I learned healthy coping techniques to help me deal with these situations that had/have a big impact on my emotional/spiritual life.

Looking back on the past five years it makes me smile thinking about how much I have developed as a professional nurse. The only way I have been able to accomplish what I have is because of my faith, family, friends, and the support and education provided by Trinity.

Trinity truly prepared me on every single level on how to provide holistic, Christ-centered care to each and every one of my patients. I am truly grateful to Trinity for the support and education they provided me with, which has truly helped me flourish into the nurse and professor I am today.”



**AUTUMN MELS '12**  
Level III Perinatal Nurse and  
Assistant Professor of Nursing  
at Trinity Christian College  
Palos Heights, IL

## A TANA NETWORKING SUCCESS STORY

“ Throughout nursing school people have always told us as students that, ‘There are so many job openings, for nursing’ and ‘You will have no problem finding a job.’ While these statements can be true, I found that it is difficult to get in at a hospital or even get an interview if you do not have connections. After doing my Capstone/Clinical Internship at Northwestern on an Intensive Care Unit, I knew that Critical Care was the area and environment that I wanted to work in. It was a grueling process of searching, finding job postings that interested me, applying, and then getting denied for unknown reasons. I had been searching and applying for jobs around the West Michigan area, where I am originally from, for a few months and was not having any results. I finally had the thought to try and reach out to Amy Nagelkirk '92, President of the Trinity Alumni Nursing Association (TANA). TANA had hosted a few events throughout the years that I had attended so I figured what harm could come from reaching out to see if there were any Trinity alumni in the Critical Care field who would have information regarding their floors. When I first messaged Amy on Facebook I thought it was going to be a long shot, but at that point I was mostly looking for advice and thoughts on what I should do. Amy was more than happy to help out, she looked for openings and networked with Trinity alumni to see what was available! After messaging back and forth a couple times she mentioned that she had found an alumni who was working at Blodgett Hospital on their Adult Critical Care unit.

Amy provided me with an email address for Alissa Stuive '99 and I was able to reach out to her. Through Alissa I was able to get in contact with the nurse manager on her floor, and from there was given the opportunity to interview for a position. I am very excited to say that I am now employed as a nurse on the Adult Critical Care unit at Blodgett Hospital! I am so blessed by Amy and Alissa and their willingness to help me and encourage me throughout this whole process. TANA has been a great outlet for networking and truly is a great resource and association for not only graduating nursing students and those still in the program, but also for alumni who are wanting to network with each other even after graduating.”



### **RACHEL KUIPERS '18**

Adult Critical Care  
Blodgett Hospital  
Grand Rapids, MI

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NURSING



The Trinity Alumni Nursing Association has opened up many new and exciting doors for the Department of Nursing. TANA allows the opportunity to celebrate the work of alumni while also creating new opportunities for current students.

When I reflect about where the Department of Nursing is now, I note that many things have changed since my time of being a student at Trinity. The Department now has a state-of-the-art simulation lab. The simulation lab is strategically used to complement clinical in two main ways: creating a standardized patient and letting the student be the primary care provider in high-risk situations. For example, if an instructor thinks “I wish every student could see a patient with 1st degree heart block,” that can be done through simulation. A student can help the nurse with a birth in clinical, but in simulation the student IS the nurse giving an APGAR score and providing interventions in a safe learning environment. Over the past number of years our simulation program has continued to grow, with the end result being students feeling more confident, competent, and prepared to care for their patients.

The nursing program has also continued to grow in ways to support students. Many Trinity nursing courses now use Undergraduate Learning Assistants (ULAs). ULAs are upper-level students who participate within the classroom and lab of a given course, to enhance the relationship between student and faculty, and provide outside-of-class academic support. The ULAs have a unique opportunity to serve in a leadership role, while also promoting ongoing learning for the students in the class. Other classes have scheduled Supplemental Instruction sessions that provide group tutoring. The use of the nursing lab has also been expanded to include open lab times that are facilitated by student lab workers. These initiatives along with the continued support of the nursing faculty have increased student retention in the clinical portion of the program.

With all of these changes, some things have remained the same. Students continue to get over 675 hours of hands-on clinical experience in settings throughout the Chicagoland area. The Nursing Student Organization (NSO) is still connecting nursing majors on campus and doing volunteer work off campus. As in the past, nursing students participate in the Trinity community in different ways through athletics, music ensembles, worship

team, the Honors program and student leadership groups. The nursing student body continues to be a rich blend of diverse students who work together to learn and grow and become a “nursing family.” And the Department of Nursing faculty are still committed to “prepare academically and clinically excellent professional nurses for a lifetime of Christ-like service to others, integrating the values of a liberal arts education with professional preparation.”

As an educator, there is little in life more exciting than seeing students you have worked with making a difference in the world, and at Trinity I get to do that every day. I am blessed to be a part of the Trinity nursing community and look forward to watching that community grow and flourish.

Tina M. Decker '06  
DNP, RN, CNS  
Chair, Department of Nursing

Trinity students complete their experience in a variety of settings. Here are some of the medical facilities where our students have completed clinicals or have gained employment upon graduation:

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital\*  
Advocate Children's Hospital\*  
Elmhurst Memorial Hospital\*  
Franciscan St. James Health  
Hegg Memorial Health Center  
Ingalls Memorial Hospital  
Little Company of Mary Hospital  
Loyola Medical Center\*  
Ann & Robert H. Lurie  
Children's Hospital of Chicago\*  
MacNeal Hospital  
MetroSouth Medical Center  
Monster Community Hospital  
Northwestern Memorial Hospital\*  
Palos Community Hospital  
Rush University Medical Center\*  
Spectrum Butterworth Hospital\* (MI)  
St. James Hospital  
University of Chicago Medicine  
Comer Children's Hospital  
University of Iowa Medical Center\* (IA)  
Mayo Clinic\* (MN)

\*Magnet designated hospital recognized by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) after demonstrating excellence in patient care in more than 35 areas of focus throughout the entire hospital.

A circular graphic with a light gray background and a white border. The number '99%' is displayed in a large, bold, dark blue font. A white line starts from the top right of the circle and extends slightly outside, suggesting a gauge or progress indicator.

First-time **NCLEX-RN** nursing licensures pass rate since 2015



### **SUPERIOR LAB FACILITIES**

As a nursing student, you will have access to equipment that enhances your experience in the on-campus simulation lab, providing you with hands-on training and led entirely by faculty. Trinity's lab includes state-of-the-art patient simulators, including SimMan3G, SimMom, and SimNewB,

giving our students the opportunity to polish their skills in a safe and controlled environment.



### **HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE**

Trinity students gain approximately 675 clinical hours of direct patient care before graduation, including 200 hours of 1-on-1 mentoring during their senior capstone. You won't just follow others around. You will be an active participant in the healthcare field, putting your

classroom and lab training into practice with patients who depend not only on your knowledge and skills, but on your ability to show Christ's love to those in need of compassion. On average, you will experience 4-7 different hospitals in Chicago and the surrounding suburbs, along with complete clinical rotations in specialty areas like obstetrics, pediatrics, and mental health.

## THE TANA PLEDGE

**Option 1:** I hereby pledge to give \$100 or more per year to the TANA Endowment Fund. This gift is an expression of my appreciation for the nursing education I received at Trinity Christian College. I may make this gift for five years or longer! I hope to see the TANA Endowment Fund grow to \$1 million in a few years. I would appreciate TANA emailing a notice to me on November 1 each year that my TANA gift has been given to become part of my annual Thanksgiving celebration.

**Option 2:** I hereby pledge to give a monthly gift of \$10 (\$120 per year) or more to the TANA Endowment Fund. This gift is an expression of my appreciation for the nursing education I received at Trinity Christian College. I may make this gift for five years or longer! I hope to see the TANA Endowment Fund grow to \$1 million in a few years. I would appreciate TANA emailing a notice to me on November 1 each year that my TANA gift has been given to become part of my annual Thanksgiving celebration.

My TANA Pledge endorses the Trinity Christian College nursing program as a baccalaureate program that gave me the firm foundation I needed to practice professional nursing.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_ Alumnus/Alumna

Class of \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

The TANA Pledge can also be set up as a recurring gift online: [trnty.edu/TANAPledge](http://trnty.edu/TANAPledge).

PLEASE DETACH AND MAIL FORM TO:  
ATTN: TANA Fund Advancement Office  
6601 West College Drive  
Palos Heights, Illinois 60463

## PAYMENT METHOD

**Charge my credit card (choose one)**

Mastercard  Visa  Discover

**Option 1:** \$100 or more per year for the duration of five years (2018-2022)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
PLEASE CHARGE MY CREDIT CARD THE \$ AMOUNT ABOVE/PER YEAR THROUGH 2022

**Option 2:** Monthly gift of \$10 or more per month for the duration of five years (2018-2022)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
PLEASE CHARGE MY CREDIT CARD THE \$ AMOUNT ABOVE/PER MONTH THROUGH 2022

\_\_\_\_\_  
CARDHOLDER NAME (AS SHOWN ON CARD)

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BILLING ADDRESS

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EMAIL (REQUIRED FOR RECEIPT)

# EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE

AMY NAGELKIRK '92, TANA BOARD CHAIR

The TANA Board is grateful for the vision of Marv Roelofs and his encouragement to offer the TANA Pledge to alumni as a gift of gratitude and service to Trinity. We are committed to being good stewards of your gifts which will be used to support the students enrolled in the nursing program of Trinity Christian College and the needs of the nursing department. Marv passed away on July 25, 2018. His legacy of generosity and service to others will be remembered by his family and the students and faculty of the nursing department.

