

PROJECT BEYOND-2

Fall 2022 Newsletter

Fall Semester Reflection



The Project BEYOND-2 (PB-2) team kicked off summer with an in-person, Pre-Admission Intensive (PAI) Program for PB-2 eligible incoming freshmen. The PAI is a 5-day, on campus, program that provides programming to help students acclimate to college life.

We offered sessions on transitioning from high school to college, surviving freshman year, and understanding financial aid. Professors from Biochemistry and Anatomy & Physiology provided a preview of their courses; Dr. Lee Za Ong and her graduate students, from the Counseling Education & Counseling Psychology department, offered a wellness session; and the MU Police Department staff held a self-defense class. Other fun activities included a scavenger hunt throughout campus and volleyball. Twenty-nine incoming freshmen attended PAI. Overall, student evaluations were positive. For example, one student commented, "I am taking away a newfound sense of confidence and comfort. I made some awesome friends and I've been presented with some dandy resources. I feel much more grounded so I'm taking away many tips about how to start off college on the right foot."

We kicked off the Fall semester by welcoming more than 130 new and current PB-2 students. As the semester continued, we hosted a variety of programming such as peer mentoring circles, structured sessions, and paired students with professional nurse mentors. In addition to PB-2 programming, many of the students were involved in campus organizations, studied abroad, and participated in other programs such as Honors, Urban Scholars, and the Educational Opportunity Program.

To bring the semester to a close, we celebrated with a holiday party and said farewell to one of our amazing team members, Amber Nicole Johnson. Amber served as a Mentor/Advisor Specialist for five years. During this time, she was enrolled in the nurse midwifery program at the College of Nursing and graduated in May 2022. She will begin a new chapter as a Certified Nurse Midwife at Aurora Sinai Medical Center. The Project BEYOND-2 team thanks Amber for her commitment, passion, and dedication to our team and students. Amber will be dearly missed! However, we are extremely proud of her and know she will make a difference in our community!

This newsletter provides a glimpse of our awesome students and programming.

Enjoy!

Dr. Terrie Garcia & PB-2 Team

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Project BEYOND-2 Team:

Terrie Garcia, PhD, RN
Project BEYOND-2 Director &
Director of
Inclusive Excellence and Student
Success Initiatives

Amber Johnson, MSN, CNM, RN
Mentor /Advisor Specialist

Tana Karenke, PhD, RN
Mentor/Advisor Specialist

Rachel Rapala, BSN, RN
Nurse Tutor Specialist

Carmella Castro, BSN, RN
Mentor/Advisor Specialist

Crissy Tud, MBA, BSN, RN, CPN,
Mentor/Advisor Specialist

In the Spotlight

On July 30th, 2022 senior in PB-2 Sydney Chambliss and assistant professor Dr. Dora Clayton Jones completed an oral presentation as a co-presenter at the 50th Annual National Black Nurses Association Institute and Conference in Chicago, IL. The title of their oral presentation was "Amplifying Their Voices During COVID-19: Empowering Young Adults Through Photovoice". Congratulations to Sydney for her first presentation AND acceptance as an oral presenter over a poster presentation!



Pictured left to right Sydney Chambliss - Senior PB-2 Student and Dr. Dora Clayton-Jones, Associate Professor

“Sydney absolutely shined during the presentation. I am so proud of her and seeing her grow as a community engaged researcher has been amazing! I look forward to seeing the impact she will have as a nurse in advancing health equity. She has gained considerable respect from the sickle cell community and that speaks volumes.”

Dora Clayton-Jones PhD RN CPNP-PC



In the Spotlight

Alumni Highlight: Elena Caro Villanueva

Marquette College of Nursing hosted the Commitment to the Profession on September 25th, 2022 at Gesu Church. This is a college tradition in which sophomore nursing students have their hands blessed and affirm their formal commitment to the call of being a Marquette nurse through high quality, compassionate care and leadership that promotes health, healing and social justice. This year Marquette and Project BEYOND-2 alum Dr. Elena Villanueva was asked to be the key note speaker.



Pictured left to right Dr. Terrie Garcia, Dr. Elena Caro Villanueva, Dr. Christian Villanueva, Crissy Tud

“It was such an honor to be chosen as the keynote speaker for the Commitment to the Profession this year. It felt so special to speak on the changes that the pandemic brought upon the nursing profession, and how the Marquette Nurse can make even more of an impact as the profession emerges from the related challenges stronger than ever. Amid staffing challenges and increased demand for nurses, the Marquette Nurse is poised with a unique wealth of knowledge, compassion, and a social-justice lens that makes for a powerhouse care provider! This opportunity to speak to the next generation of nurse leaders was truly energizing, and stepping back into Gesu and remembering what it’s like as a budding nurse, to be surrounded by hope and wonder, was a reminder that our future in the profession is brighter than ever.”

Elena Villanueva DNP, RN

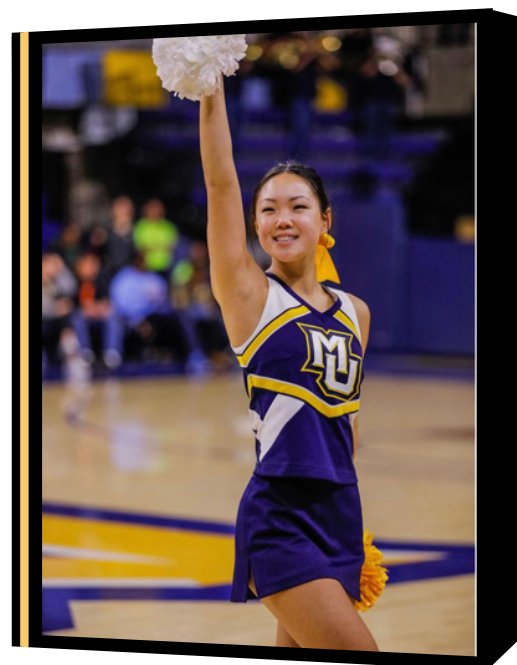
In the Spotlight

Senior, Sam Mastri, has been on the Marquette Cheerleading Team since her Freshmen year. Student editor, Emma Hoepnner, sat down with Sam to discuss how she was able to manage the rigor of the undergraduate nursing program with the demands of the Cheerleading Team.

Q. How has being a cheerleader changed or effected your college experience?



“It’s definitely made me good at multitasking. I think it’s also taught me a lot about prioritizing and personal relationships. I think that, nursing is very busy, and cheerleading is very busy too, but I think it’s taught me a lot about how to prioritize what really matters for me; I am on cheer because I choose to be. I love doing it, so I choose to be there, and I make time for it in my day. That requires a lot of sacrifices; that requires late night studying, waking up early to work out or to do homework. I think it’s also taught me how to make relationships with other people, and meaningful connections because it’s a team sport, and you have to work with so many different people.”



**Sam Mastri- Senior
PB-2 Student**



Q. How do you balance being a cheerleader and a full-time nursing student? How do you persevere?



“The biggest thing in terms of balance is, it sucks, it’s hard. I’ll never not say that. The biggest thing, especially the past two years, I’ve come to realize that there’s some things that are glass, and some things that are plastic. If you drop something that’s plastic, it bounces back, and that’s okay. If you drop something that’s glass, it breaks. So, it’s really trying to figure out what is glass and what is plastic... My teammates are really great and understanding, my coaches are great; bottom-line is it’s hard and it’s a major commitment. But knowing that I have that support and having Project BEYOND is great, and again knowing I have the support resources is really helpful... Recognizing these are your stressors, this is your week, if you’re not perfectly organized, that’s okay. You have to tell yourself that it is okay to struggle because everyone else is, but it’s ultimately how you deal with it and how you ask or reach out for help.”

Marquette Global Medical Brigades: Summer Trip to Panama



Over the summer, Senior Beyonce King and Junior Lupita Echeverria, traveled to Panama with Marquette's chapter of Global Medical Brigades. This program was started by two Marquette students in 2003 that creates opportunities for students to provide patient education and empower communities with resources. Emma Hoepfner sat down with Beyonce King to talk about her time spent with Panama with Global Brigades.

Q. Describe the basis of what your group did while in Panama

"We went to three different communities. We set up in schools, and we had 3 American doctors and 3 Panamanian doctors... We went in and we set up all of our supplies, we brought medications, we brought hats, clothes, basically like an urgent care... These huge families would come in, and they go through triage, which is vitals, then they would wait to be called in by the doctor... and they [doctors] are able to add a prescription for whatever a patient may need. Then they always gave them ringworm medication, every patient got it, especially since the water in Panama isn't very clean... Then they'd go off to Charla, which is just patient education, and I was a part of Charla! It was patient education and making it fun, we made posters, there was one about healthy eating, dental, proper body mechanics, water, and exercise all in Spanish... After Charla, they picked up their medications, whatever prescriptions they needed, but every patient got vitamins and the meds that the doctor prescribed to them."



**Beyonce King- Senior
PB-2 Student**

Q. Has this experience changed your outlook on nursing?

"I don't think it's changed; I think it's made it better. It reminded me WHY I wanted to do it [nursing]. You can go into a lot of different professions for the wrong reasons, like the money, but I think being there, and being able to connect with people is the reason why I want to be a nurse. I like science, but I also like being able to incorporate a huge part of my personality into my work, and not having to be ashamed of it."



**Lupita Echeverria-
Junior PB-2 Student**

Fall Semester Study Abroad: Melbourne, Australia



Two Project BEYOND-2 juniors Kierra Pruitt and Lupita Echevierra spent Fall semester in Melbourne, Australia at Monash University. Kierra Pruitt share her insight of her experience down under as a study abroad nursing student.

"My time abroad in Australia was such a wonderful, life-changing experience. I chose to study abroad in Australia because of how diverse and inclusive it is. Not only did I want to be in a place that had a diverse community of people from all walks of life but also a diverse environment as well. Australia is such a beautiful place with vibrant cities, flourishing nature, and incredible oceans. These are things that were important to me when picking my study abroad location. I made so many wonderful connections with other students and have created friendships that I believe will last a lifetime. To anyone contemplating the program or any study abroad program for that matter... DO IT!"



Australia and America are very similar in the sense that they are both developed countries with high-quality education systems and great opportunities. However, culturally I would say the food was the main difference. Australia is generally a healthier place compared to the United States. When it came to taking classes in a foreign country, there was a huge learning curve. Not just because nursing school anywhere is hard, but the style of learning is vastly different. At Marquette, I am accustomed to being constantly tested throughout the semester with exams however in Australia it was not quite the same. A lot of the assignments I was turning in were essays weirdly enough. But otherwise, the classes were extremely interactive, and less lecture based."

Kierra Pruitt, PB-2 Junior

Program Updates:

Farewell to Amber Johnson, Mentor/Advisor Specialist

This semester we say goodbye to Amber Johnson who has been with the program for over 5 years.

In May, Amber completed the Nurse Midwifery program here at Marquette and will begin her new role as a Certified Nurse Midwife in January at Aurora Sinai. During her time at Marquette Amber has been integral in the creation and success of the peer mentoring circles, a trusted and beloved mentor who inspired her students to success, all while being a student herself. Amber's presence will be missed by all of her PB-2 and Office of Student Services colleagues, the College community, and the students she has supported over the years. We wish Amber nothing but the absolutely best as she transitions into her new role and we are so proud to always have her as part of the Marquette University College of Nursing family!

"I cannot express how bittersweet it is to step away from Project BEYOND-2. I cannot call this a 'job' because it has never felt like one. This has been an experience that has created lifelong friendships, student bonds, personal growth, and the educational opportunity to begin my calling as a Certified Nurse Midwife servicing people in the Milwaukee community. I will never forget nor take this experience for granted. The PB2 & the CON is a gem, and the students, staff, & faculty within it have my heart forever. To my students, I know that the nursing profession will be so much better with each of you in it. You will change the landscape of healthcare for the better and I can't wait to see it. This isn't goodbye, this is see you later as my RN colleagues. To Dr. Garcia, you are God-sent. The opportunities, grace, & guidance you have provided to me over the last 5 years have changed my life. I am forever grateful to you."

- Amber Johnson, MSN, RN



Pictured left to right Amber Johnson and Beka Tait, PB-2 Senior

"Amber has been my advisor since my freshman year. As a senior now, she has been one of the most influential people during my time here at Marquette. Amber has always challenged me to do my best, be confident in myself and my abilities, and been one of my biggest cheerleaders. We have laughed together and cried together. She has always been a safe space for me to go to when I needed it and even in times when I wasn't aware I needed it. I believe she wants all of her students to win and be successful and does her absolute best to help them reach that goal. She will be dearly missed by many on this campus, but I am grateful for the time I got with her and the lasting impact she has had on my nursing career and my life overall. Thank you, Amber, for all you do and we wish you nothing but the best on your new journey!"

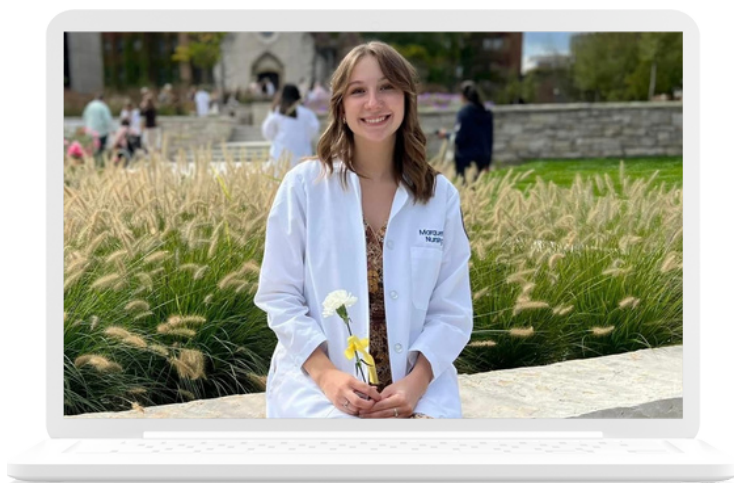
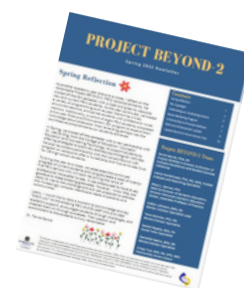
- Beka Tate, PB-2 Senior

Program Updates (Cont.)

Crissy Tud, MBA, BSN, RN, CPN joined Project BEYOND-2 this Fall semester. Crissy is a 2014 graduate from the Marquette College of Nursing and was a Project BEYOND student during her time here! Crissy works concurrently as a Mentor/Advisor Specialist and a pediatric nurse at Children's Wisconsin. When she isn't advising students and caring for children, she enjoys being outdoors, hiking with her dogs and Pilates. We are thrilled to have Crissy join the PB-2 team!



Meet the Student Newsletter Editor: Emma Hoepfner



Emma Hoepfner, PB-2 Sophomore student is from McHenry, IL. Emma volunteered to work on the newsletter to get more involved in the project, meet more PB-2 students, and push herself outside of her comfort zone. When she is not being a stellar student, Emma enjoys Marquette basketball, taking naps, and eating dinner with her friends. Thank you Emma for all your hard work!



**HAVE A GREAT
WINTER BREAK!**
YOUR PB-2 TEAM