



**PRESENTATION  
COLLEGE**

**SHARING MEMORIES,  
SHAPING THE FUTURE**



**SAINTS**





*Sister Mary*

President, Presentation Sisters

Dear Presentation College Community,

As we recall fond memories of the Presentation College community over the past 70 years, we see how God labored with a tender love to bring forth a fruitfulness that defies words. God’s wondrous fidelity is threaded throughout the Presentation story, so we begin with Nano Nagle, foundress of the Presentation Sisters.

Nano lived in Cork, Ireland, during a time when Catholics were bitterly oppressed. She was secreted to the mainland to be educated. Upon her return she witnessed the dire poverty of her people and how the lack of education would doom another generation. She saw a gap between the “haves” and the “have nots”. Nano left her place of relative privilege to step into that gap. In the gap she better heard the story of the suffering poor in their words. Her resources allowed her to meet those in need without imposing her agenda on them. She responded with respect for what they needed and empowered them to find their own voice. The Holy Spirit’s love in her became the energy of her selfless service to the poor. God’s love was manifested for all to see and be inspired to live a life in emulation of Nano. This spark gave birth to the Sisters of the Presentation.

The first group of Presentation Sisters arrived in Dakota Territory, homeland of the Oceti Sakowin American Indian, in the 1880’s. From the beginning, the Sisters were attentive to the gaps – in education, health care and justice. Many services were welcomed and many times the Sisters risked scorn to stand with the marginalized. Presentation College met the needs of many first-generation collegiate students. We stand in profound gratitude for the countless ways Presentation College prepared graduates to go forth living the Gospel message as servant leaders and for those who empowered them.

Today, we know many who desire an education are unable to relocate to a campus setting. Once again, we enter the gap and respond courageously. Our call continues as our ever-faithful God labors in love to assume the life that was Presentation College into another expression of that same love through the Nano Nagle Online School of Nursing and Health Sciences at St. Ambrose University. As Presentation People we joyfully incarnate the compassion and justice of Jesus as Nano did, so that our neighbors locally and globally might live with hope. This is our mission from God through Nano and will remain so until injustice is no more.

May the bonds of friendship forged at Presentation bring you peace and joy.

Sister Mary Thomas, PBVM  
President of the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

We, the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Aberdeen, South Dakota, are a vowed faith community who share the mission of Jesus.

Inspired by our foundress, Nano Nagle, we willingly go forth to any part of the world to work for justice, alleviating oppression and promoting human dignity, especially among the poor. We proclaim the Good News with missionary zeal, in spirit of love and joy.



Special thanks to Andrew Hansen, Marketing and Public Relations Director, Presentation College, Casey Halvorson, Graphic Designer, Presentation College and Kathleen Daly, Archivist, Presentation Sisters, for their collaborative work on this special commemorative publication.



# SAINTS



**1775**

Nano Nagle founded the Presentation Sisters in Ireland in 1775. She began her ministry by teaching children, which was against the law at that time. Her belief in the power and importance of education has spanned the centuries and continues to shape the ministry of the Presentation Sisters around the world.

## PRESENTATION MISSION

Welcoming people of all faiths, Presentation College challenges learners toward academic excellence and, in the Catholic tradition, the development of the whole person.

## PRESENTATION PRESIDENTS



PAULA LANGTEAU  
2019-2023



MARGARET HUBER  
2012-2019



VIRGINIA TOBIN  
2011



SR. LORRAINE HALE  
1995-2011



ALEXANDER POPOVICS  
1993-1995



SR. BERNADETTE BODINE  
1991-1992



BR. CLARENCE FIOKE  
1988-1990



SR. LYNN MARIE WELBIG  
1977-1988



SR. FRANCIS MARY DUNN  
1967-1977



SR. ALICIA DUNPHY  
1964-1967



MO. CARMELITA MCCULLOUGH  
1958-1964



MO. VIATOR BURNS  
1951-1958



# HISTORY OF PC



## 1718

The Foundress of the Presentation Sisters, Nano Nagle, was born in County Cork, Ireland. After receiving her education in France, she returned to Ireland and was appalled by the oppression of poor Catholics.

## 1752

Nano Nagle risked her life and imprisonment by establishing secret schools (hedge schools) for Catholic children barred from education by oppressive British law. Twenty years later, she had opened seven schools in the city of Cork.

## 1775

Nano Nagle founded what later became, the Congregation of the Sisters of the Presentation.

## 1880

The Presentation Sisters extend their mission by crossing the Atlantic Ocean to the United States and traveling to Dakota Territory.

## 1882

The Presentation Sisters establish their first permanent motherhouse in Fargo, North Dakota.

## 1886

Presentation Sisters accept the call from Bishop Marty to serve the Catholic School in the new Sacred Heart Church in Aberdeen, South Dakota.

## 1900

Health ministry begins when Sisters aid the sick during a diphtheria epidemic.

## 1901

The Presentation Sisters established St. Luke's Hospital and Presentation School of Nursing – St. Luke's in Aberdeen, South Dakota in response to the diphtheria epidemic.

## 1906

Presentation School of Nursing – St. Joseph's and Hospital was opened in Mitchell, South Dakota at the request of Dr. Byron A. Bobb and members of the community.

## 1910

Presentation School of Nursing – McKennan began its Nursing program in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, with the help of an endowment left by Helen McKennan.

## 1922

With the aid of the Right Reverend Monsignor J. M. Brady, Notre Dame Junior College was established in Mitchell, South Dakota.

## 1942

The four accredited diploma Nursing programs were centralized in Aberdeen, South Dakota as Presentation School of Nursing. The Nursing School was one of the first three in the United States to be selected by the government to prepare Cadet Nurses during WWII.

## 1947

Male students enroll at Presentation School of Nursing for the first time.

## 1951

Notre Dame Junior College closed in Mitchell, South Dakota and is transferred to the Presentation Motherhouse in Aberdeen, South Dakota. The name is changed to Presentation Junior College.



**PRESENTATION  
COLLEGE**

# GROUND-BREAKING

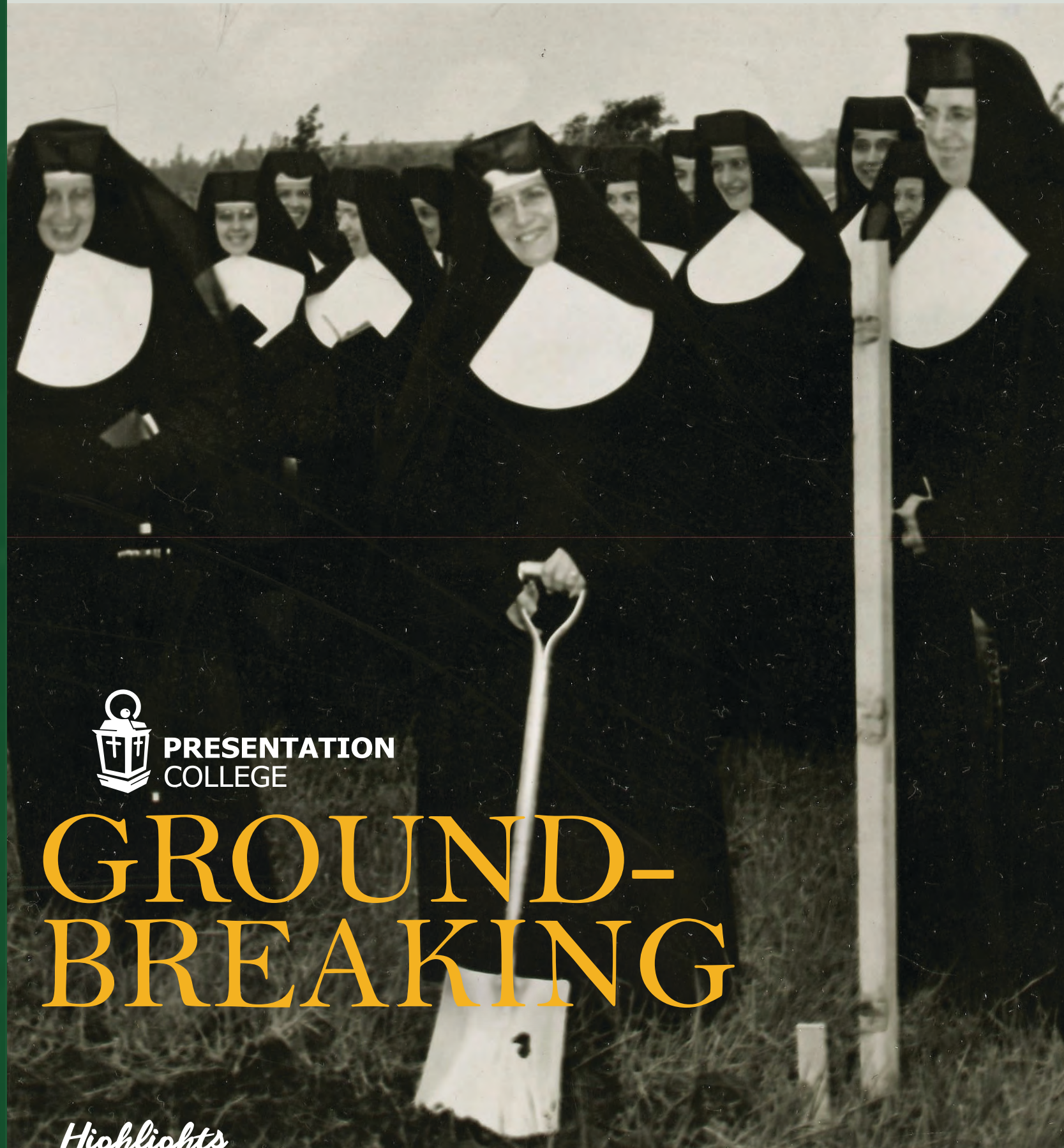
## Highlights

- 1951 - Msgr. John Brady gave sponsorship of Notre Dame Junior College in Mitchell, South Dakota to the Presentation Sisters who had staffed Notre Dame since its beginning in 1922. The name was changed to Presentation Junior College, and moved to Aberdeen, South Dakota.
- 1954 - In May, the college was transferred to its current location at Presentation Heights, 1500 North Main Street in Aberdeen, South Dakota.

## 1950'S



**PRESENTATION COLLEGE**





# 1960'S



“ When I went to Northern State College to become a teacher, somebody said, ‘Go to Presentation College. They just changed from an all-girls school to coed.’ There were more than 300 girls and only about 30 guys. When I got there, it was all about education. The reverence that PC had for God was just my thing. I liked the presence of everyone - the sisters and the students. It was a super great time. I had a lot of good friends and good buddies. That’s what we called each other: ‘buddy.’ I stayed in my career from graduation until I retired. ”

- G. “DOUGL” DOUGLAS WILLIAMS, class of 1971

# SEVENTIES

# SIXTIES

“ I wanted to go to a Catholic college, so I chose Presentation College. I worked for the first year and learned about my religion. All the classes were taught from a faith perspective, which I was not used to as I came from a public school. I liked that atmosphere and was surrounded by people that were Catholic or at least religious people, which really made a difference for me. This was the first time I had met the Presentation Sisters and I was very intrigued by them. After my first year of College I entered the convent and became a postulant. As a postulant I continued to take College classes and graduated with my two-year degree. It (entering religious life) was a big life-changing thing for me. I had never even contemplated becoming a sister. It gave me a different opportunity to delve into their life in a more reflective way. We were surrounded by people that cared about moral, Christian, and Gospel values. ”

- SISTER SHEILA SCHNELL, class of 1960



## Highlights

- 1970's - The building known today as the Wellness Building had once been a cafeteria at St. Luke's Hospital. It was moved and placed onto concrete that had been added just for this purpose. A small addition was added, onto the back of the building. The building was called the PUB (Presentation Union Building). It was used as a recreation facility with pool tables, study areas, snacks, etc. It also housed a post office.
- 1971 – Presentation College receives initial accreditation from the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA).

## Highlights

- New northeast wing added. The library moved to that building on the first floor in 1963.
- March 30, 1965, the title was simplified and the College was incorporated as "Presentation College."
- Presentation College awarded a diploma to graduates until 1966 when the College conferred Associate degrees in Arts and Science.
- Presentation College became co-educational in 1968.
- The Nursing Education Building was dedicated on Nov. 11, 1969.



# 1970'S





# 1980'S



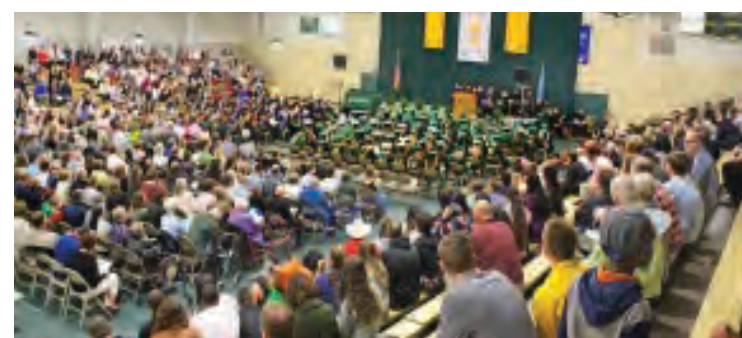
“PC brought the nursing program, with instructors and labs, to Avera McKennan Hospital to make everything as convenient as possible. I was working full-time as a LPN at the time and my children were elementary-aged. Having a young family and going to school was a stressful time, but PC made it as easy as possible for a non-traditional student like me. It was a struggle at times, and even though life kept happening, I had to keep up with my studies. We were able to do our clinicals at the hospital too. I am very fortunate to have had that opportunity. I was most impressed with one of my anatomy professors. Instructors were very knowledgeable and made the program fun. PC provided someone to come in and talk to us about testing anxiety; that was very helpful for me as a non-traditional student, and I felt very supported by the school. I graduated with high honors. I was proud of myself; I knew I could do it, and I did it. I have been a nurse for 50 years. I've been able to work in many different areas of nursing, and that was a huge bonus. I realized I wasn't limited to specific areas and that I could do whatever I wanted to do. My degree from PC has been a huge benefit to me in many ways. I retired in 2017, but I still work as an as-needed employee at a local clinic. I am now a case manager and do social work duties for the clinic. I would not have achieved higher education if it weren't for PC.”

-MARY KAY BIEBER, class of 1988



“When I look back on my time at Presentation College, I realize that it was such a great education. It gave me a lot more self-confidence and self-reliance. I feel like it really shaped me as a person because nursing is what I really wanted to do, and I was able to do that. I was able to do a lot more than I ever thought I could. I was in the Student Senate in my freshman year, and then in my sophomore year, I became its president. It was fun being involved. The football games, the talent shows, and all of those fun things that we did made campus life so much better. It was wonderful.”

-Karen Orgish, class of 1990



## Highlights

- The Cheyenne River Lakota Nursing School at Eagle Butte, South Dakota, an extension of the nursing program of Presentation College, welcomed the first class of Native American students.



## Highlights

- 1990 The North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA) gives Presentation College approval as a baccalaureate institution.
- 1991 Cheyenne River Lakota Nursing program changes its name to the Presentation College Lakota Campus.
- 1992 Presentation College confers the first Baccalaureate degrees in nursing.
- 1998 The first BSN degrees were conferred on Lakota Campus graduates. This is the first time in the nation that a reservation-based campus conferred a BSN degree.
- 1998 Stode Center is completed.

# 1990'S





# 2000's



## TWO THOUSANDS



“Back when I graduated high school, I wanted to become an RN. Then I met my husband, got married, and always thought I'd go back later. I never really had the opportunity until Presentation College offered a program where we could take classes in our hometown. There were about eight of us in the Gettysburg area who all went to classes together. We were all very close. I would have to go to Aberdeen for classes maybe once a week, so I was still able to work while taking classes to get my RN. If it wouldn't have been for that opportunity, I would have never gone and gotten my RN. We had awesome teachers who explained things very well and were willing to work with us.”

-TAMARA RAE PENROD (SEIFEL), class of 2003

## Highlights

- 2001 Presentation College celebrates 50 year anniversary.
- 2003 The Presentation College-Fairmont Campus is opened in the community of Fairmont, Minnesota.
- 2004 PC Virtual reaches approval from the Institutional Actions Council of The Higher Learning Commission to expand distance learning programs.



“My buddy and I decided to keep playing basketball together. It seemed logical to go there. We'd had friends go there before us and we decided to spend four more years together. We lived together and went that route. The professors were great. I had zero interest in history, but my history professor turned out to be my favorite teacher I've ever had at any level. He was fun and phenomenal. After being in his classes, I was like, 'History is the greatest thing ever.' Another outstanding professor taught a business ethics class. He wanted us to ask real-life questions and not hold anything back because he was a judge. Everything about Presentation College made me feel better about myself.”

-DANNY J. KURTZ, class of 2010



## Highlights

- In 2011-2012, the College completed a renovation of its chemistry, biology, anatomy and physiology and athletic training lab facilities.
- In 2013, PC opened a multi-million dollar student suites housing facility, as well as a new athletic training and wellness center with expanded space and high-tech exercise equipment.
- PC broke ground in 2014 for the new winter Dome, which was fully erected in early 2015.
- At the beginning of 2017, construction began on the Avera Simulation Center, a high-tech, hands-on learning center for students in Nursing, Athletic Training and other Allied Health Fields.
- During the summer of 2017, a new Welcome Center was constructed at the entrance of the main building.
- Fall of 2018, PC launched its first-ever graduate program: a Master's in Nursing with two tracks: Family Nurse Practitioner and Nurse Educator.



# 2010's





# 2020'S



“ My friend and I had finished our LPN course at another school, and we both planned on going back to school. I already had a bachelor's degree in something not related to nursing, but most of the credits carried over. I have a child with special needs, so being able to earn my degree online was important to me. All of the teachers were helpful, and the clinical staff was there to support me. I had easy access to my instructors, and they were very responsive. It can be challenging to navigate a nursing program online, but the staff was very encouraging and supportive as we worked through our journey. ”

- SARAH M. KARELS, class of 2021



## TWENTIES

### Highlights

- 2020 – In March, Presentation College transitions to online courses because of the global Covid-19 pandemic. Campus would be closed to the public. A majority of PC employees would begin working remotely. A mask mandate would later be required when PC had its first cases of the Coronavirus. Through the Spring of 2022 PC would follow CDC guidelines and regular testing to keep its community safe.



## Presentation CAMPUSES

In keeping with the Sisters' mission of outreach, education, and service to Native Americans in the region, Presentation College began organizing a distance site in Eagle Butte on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation in the late 1970s. While open to all qualified students, Lakota Campus was intended to provide educational opportunities for Native American students close to their homes and families in this remote central region of the state. In 1980, the first group of nursing students was enrolled.

Another enhancement was made during the 1997-1998 academic year to respond to the needs of the rural, non-traditional RN student. Baccalaureate completion courses were offered to RN students in an accelerated format using block scheduling and distance education technology to students in Sioux Falls and Aberdeen, SD. This change reflected a shift in educational preferences for registered nurses who wished to remain employed while continuing their education. The first cohort graduated in December 1998. New cohorts began each January and graduated in May of the following year (16 months after beginning the program). The completion programs represented the beginning of distance education for nursing at Presentation College. The LPN-BSN in particular, continued to be a popular and rapidly growing option for students.

In 2003, Presentation College was invited by Fairmont, Minnesota community leaders to establish a local campus to fulfill the education needs of the rural area. Fairmont, Minnesota is located five hours southeast of Aberdeen, SD. In fall of 2004, after approval from the Minnesota Board of Nursing, HLC-NCA, and the Minnesota Office of Higher Education, the campus began offering nursing courses for the traditional BSN student, LPN-BSN, and RN-BSN. Spring 2007, six RN-BSN students completed their program of study and graduated from the Fairmont Campus.





# NURSING



Nursing has been a cornerstone among the educational programs offered by Presentation College for many years. St. Luke's School of Nursing, organized by the Presentation Sisters and associated with St. Luke's Hospital in Aberdeen, was founded in 1901 in response to the need for trained nurses to care for the sick during a diphtheria epidemic that year. It later became one of the first three nursing programs in the nation to participate in the Cadet Nurse Corps program during World War II. In 1958, the name of the school officially changed to Presentation School of Nursing. At the same time, diploma nursing students began taking academic support courses. In 1965, the decision was made to phase out the diploma program with the graduation class of 1968 and organize an associate degree nursing (ADN) program. The first class of 45 students was admitted in 1966, and 36 graduated in 1968. With a continued need for access to educational opportunities and increased demand for baccalaureate prepared nurses in the region, the decision was made in 1988 to develop an RN to BSN completion program so associate degree graduates could complete a baccalaureate degree in nursing.

As part of this evolution and in keeping with the College's goal to expand its two-year programs into baccalaureate education, a generic baccalaureate nursing program (BSN) was eventually developed through a series of curriculum revisions from the associate degree and baccalaureate completion programs. Fifteen students graduated as the charter traditional BSN class in May 1998.

Most recently, Presentation College Division of Nursing offered the baccalaureate nursing program in Aberdeen and formerly Fairmont for generic students and in Aberdeen, nursing completion (LPN – BSN and RN – BSN). The baccalaureate program was instrumental in meeting the needs of these rural areas for registered nurses. In addition, the Division of Nursing offers a MSN program which received initial accreditation in September 2018.







PRESENTATION COLLEGE  
**ACTIVITIES**

PRESENTATION COLLEGE  
**ATHLETICS**

*Highlights*

**MEN'S BASKETBALL:**

NAIA II Qualifier - Tourney Champions 2003 (UMAC)

**MEN'S SOCCER:**

Conference Champions 2006 (UMAC)

Evan Ormand - Conference Player of the Year

**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL:**

Conference Champions - 2006 & 2007 (UMAC)

**FOOTBALL:**

Won 7 games in 2016, program record 7-3.

Had top 10 defense in the NAIA in multiple categories.

Jeff Branch (DE) All-American.

**VOLLEYBALL:**

Won program record 20 matches in 2017, going 20-13.

**MEN'S BASKETBALL:**

Won NSAA title in 2018-2019 season, going 11-3 in conference play & winning program record 21 games. (21-10)

**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL:**

Went to NSAA Final Four in 2018-2019 season.







*Amy Novak*

President, Saint Ambrose University



Members of the Presentation Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Alumni Community of Presentation College,

It is with humility and immense gratitude that I offer the following reflection on the creation of the Nano Nagle Online School of Nursing. The paschal mystery cycle invites us to reflect on the closing of one chapter and the birth of a new creation.

In sixth grade, I sat in a classroom at Holy Family Elementary School in Mitchell, South Dakota captivated by the animated educator and Sister of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, SaBina Joyce. Her zeal for social justice, her advocacy for the marginalized, her commanding presence and stature at just over 5' left an indelible imprint on my soul. "Justice, she said, will be the work of your lifetime." Sister SaBina inspired me to see the world through another person's eyes, to be open to listening with empathy, to leading with love and not judgment. Her inspiration, and the gifts of countless other Sisters who graced my path, imprinted a personal conviction to carry the light of Nano Nagle into the work I do each day.

We invited the guiding light of Nano Nagle's lantern into our conversations as St. Ambrose and the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary developed the expansive vision for equipping future healthcare leaders across rural America who might otherwise not have access to economic, social or spiritual mobility.

Nano's zeal, born in Christ, ignited a bold vision for healthcare education, anchored in compassion, justice, and mercy, that is accessible, affordable, and personalized for students of many backgrounds, whose place-bound realities restricted their ability to earn a college degree. Our collective vision of an education rooted in person-centered care, enhanced by technology and deeply infused with our Catholic social teachings, finds a home in the Spirit of Nano Nagle, whose pioneering ministry was never bound by geography and who called all who served alongside her to "be of service in serving souls in any part of the world."

Today, we are humbled to carry on the legacy of the Presentation Sisters through the creation of the Nano Nagle Online School of Nursing at St. Ambrose University. This school is designed to equip the next generation of healthcare leaders to be the hands, feet, and mouthpiece of Christ to a wounded world. May Nano Nagle's lantern of light ignite in the next generation of leaders a commitment to bring healing to the wounded, hope to the marginalized, and joy to all whom they encounter. May the work of justice, imprinted on each of us by the Sisters, be a signature of our work for generations to come.

In Christ's Peace,

Dr. Amy Novak  
President, Saint Ambrose University

“May Nano Nagle's lantern of light ignite in the next generation of leaders.”







*ONCE A SAINT, ALWAYS A SAINT.*



PRESENTATION  
COLLEGE



StAmbrose  
University