MORAVIAN COLLEGE, HELEN S. BREIDEGAM SCHOOL OF NURSING

St. Luke’s Hospital in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, established a School of Nursing in 1884. Women and men graduating from the Diploma Program have served as professional staff for St. Luke’s Hospital, which expanded its operations in the late 20th century so that it became a regional health network serving the greater Lehigh Valley region of Pennsylvania.

As the complexity of health and nursing care developed over the years, the nursing faculty recommended that St. Luke’s Hospital and Health Network convert the Diploma School to a Baccalaureate Degree program. St. Luke’s Hospital and Health Network began to seek an academic partner for this purpose in 1995. Moravian College was selected as the most appropriate higher education institution to work with the Hospital in developing an innovative partnership. It was the intent of the new St. Luke’s Hospital and Health Network and Moravian College Partnership to bring together the best of clinical nursing education with the best of liberal arts education creating a 21st century Professional Nurse of clinical excellence. The partnership was formed and the School of Nursing opened on the Moravian campus in 1998.

The first group of 17 nursing students was admitted to Moravian College for the 1999-2000 academic year. Dr. Janet A. Sipple was appointed as the first nursing Professor and Chairperson of the School of Nursing. The original nine nursing faculty members were selected in June 1999. The first B.S. degrees in nursing were awarded on May 17, 2003. Within the next few years, the School of Nursing developed a baccalaureate degree completion program for registered nurses; the first students to receive B.S degrees with a major in nursing graduated from this program in 2007. The development of a master’s degree program in nursing followed in 2009. Tracks offered in this M.S. program included Nurse Administrator, Nurse Educator, and Clinical Nurse Leader. The first M.S. degrees in nursing were awarded to graduates of this program in May 2011. In February 2014, the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing (PA SBON) approved proposals to offer Adult-Gerontology Primary Care and Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner programs.

In April 2013, Moravian College and St. Luke’s University Health Network (formerly St. Luke’s Hospital and Health Network) mutually agreed to dissolve the joint governance structure for the School of Nursing, after receiving formal approval to do so from the PA SBON. The St. Luke’s School of Nursing at Moravian College had operated as an academic department within the College; this operating structure now became finalized, and the School of Nursing became the Helen S. Breidegam School of Nursing, Moravian College. In May 2015, Moravian College awarded the degrees Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.) and Master of Science in Nursing (M.S.N.) for the first time to graduates of its respective undergraduate and graduate nursing programs.

In August 2015, the Trustees approved a proposal championed by the President to reorganize the College. The President and the Trustees previously governed three educational units: the undergraduate programs (“Day” College), the Comenius Center for Continuing, Professional, and Graduate Studies (Comenius Center), and the Moravian Theological Seminary (MTS). The reorganization resulted in the disassembling of the
Comenius Center, retention of the MTS, and the founding of two new schools: the School of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (SAHSS), and the School of Natural and Health Sciences (SNHS). This new organizational structure better aligns departments with similar pedagogical approaches, and affords the College an infrastructure better aligned to realize goals for programmatic growth specified in Vision 2020. The new organizational model is designed so that the Provost provides senior leadership for the division of Academic Affairs. Three schools fall under the umbrella of Academic Affairs, which include the MTS, led by Dean Frank Crouch, the SAHSS, led by Dean Gary Kaskowitz, and the SNHS, led by Dean Diane Husic.

In January 2016, the Department expanded operations and offerings to include the College’s newly launched Public Health Undergraduate major, which offers Bachelor of Science degrees to traditional students. This resulted in the renaming of the Department to the Helen S. Breidegam School of Nursing and Public Health (DNPH). In May 2016, in response to a generous naming gift to the college, the name of the DNPH changed once again to The Helen S. Breidegam School of Nursing (SON). The reporting structure, role, and responsibilities of key individuals, including faculty, staff, and administrators, have not changed in any substantive manner.

**THE HELEN S. BREIDEGAM SCHOOL OF NURSING CREST**

Graduates from the St. Luke’s Hospital School of Nursing at Moravian College received a nursing pin, which was purposely crafted to reflect the partnership that gave birth to the program. On the left side of the crest is the Moravian College Colonial Hall cupola, long used as the logo for Moravian College. In tandem with the cupola is the year 1742, the year that the College was founded. The St. Luke’s seal comprises the right side of the crest. Placed prominently at the top of the crest between the cupola and the St. Luke’s seal is the Moravian star, used extensively as a symbol or logo by both Moravian College and St. Luke’s. To the bottom of the crest is the Nightingale lamp, used for many years as a logo by the St. Luke’s Hospital School of Nursing diploma program.

In 2013, the Helen S. Breidegam School of Nursing Faculty gave due consideration to make the most appropriate change to the Helen S. Breidegam School of Nursing Crest to reflect the nursing program’s change in title and governance. The Nursing Faculty unanimously agreed to keep the pictorial components of the St. Luke’s School of Nursing at Moravian College crest intact, so that the program’s rich historical foundation would not be minimized nor forgotten. The only change to the crest included changing the name of the program on the perimeter of the pin from “St. Luke’s School of Nursing at Moravian College” to “Moravian College.” Most recently, MSN and MSN/NP students were provided opportunity to purchase a pin with the MSN designation in the border.