

Getting to know...

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Hello! I've been teaching at Decker for 10 years, where I am currently on the tenure track, and I have been an Emergency Department nurse for 15 years. I have been a member of the union all along, but just recently started to get more involved in the past 2 years. I value the union and it's mission, but I was also looking to be more involved in the University community, especially after Decker moved to the Health Sciences campus in 2021.

QUESTION & ANSWER

Tell me about your job and why you love what you do?

At Decker, I teach mostly research methods and statistics in the undergraduate program and the PhD program, but I've taught in lots of areas including hospital clinicals, graduate courses, and in the Innovative Simulation and Practice Center. I enjoy the subject matter and being able to interact with students at all of these levels. Being a nurse can be demanding and emotionally intense, so I like to be able to talk to students about how to manage that transition. Graduate school can similarly be an intense transition for students, and the smaller PhD class sizes allow for a closer working relationship with these students who are often midcareer and have an enormous amount to contribute to the nursing profession. I also work one shift a week at a local emergency department, where I get to practice as a bedside nurse. Emergency Nursing is all at once chaotic, fun, challenging and illuminating, and I appreciate the opportunity to maintain relationships with my community.

How did you get involved with UUP?

My colleague Serdar Atav, who recently retired, encouraged me to become an e-board member, and encouraged me to succeed him as dept rep on his retirement. I watched the way he interacted with fellow faculty and leadership and appreciated his approach and the way he balanced fairness and collegiality. One of my favorite memories of him was from a meeting where someone was complaining that newer faculty were being hired at higher salaries. He said to us, please don't be angry that someone else has more than you. Don't wish that they had less--use it to advocate that you want more too! I think of this often to remind myself to focus on lifting up everyone at every level.

How do you make a difference?

I hope I make a difference by advocating for my fellow faculty and students! I feel very grateful for the positions I hold, and I hope to pay it forward by being a source of information and support for those who come after me. Many nurses who make the transition to teaching have very little experience in an academic environment, and find that it can be intimidating and difficult to navigate. Academia can include implicit and unspoken expectations and a schedule that is much more independently managed than nurses are used to. When you add the expectation of scholarship and research, some newer faculty don't quite know where to start. I want to be a person who will answer any questions plainly and without judgement, help with difficult conversations, and be available for new faculty for mentorship. Through our Faculty Affairs committee, I've helped to facilitate faculty workshops on applying for promotions and helping faculty to complete annual reports as a starting point.

What about your community engagement; any hobbies?

I am not native to Binghamton and I'm an introvert, so I appreciate how hard it can be to build a supportive community. The union itself is one aspect of community engagement for me. It has helped me build more connections with my colleagues across all disciplines so we can support each other and cheer each other on.

That said, I like to keep a healthy work/life balance! In addition to spending time with family and friends, I swim with the Binghamton University Masters Swim program (BUMS), and do open water swims in the summer. I also love hiking and kayaking when the weather permits. I have worked as a poll inspector for Broome County elections, and I belong to arguably the best book club ever to exist (seriously, we will argue with you about it).