

*The St. Catherine Experience provides an overview of opportunities in your major and the co-curriculum at St. Catherine University. Use this guide in discussions with your academic advisor and other mentors to choose those experiences that will best support your academic, career and personal goals. Please read through this entire guide. Some tips and opportunities may be more relevant for you in different years.*

Suggestions for making connections with your classmates, the University and the Department of Respiratory Care.

**YEAR 1**  
Gateways

### **Welcome to St. Catherine University and the Department of Respiratory Care**

*"When students graduate from our program, they are wholly different people. One of the drivers of this is that they come to understand the gravity of the work they are doing. We stay very close to these students and have high expectations ... we work very hard with every student"* John Boatright, Ph.D., RRT, Associate Professor and Department Chair

*"Students in RESP 3200: Advanced Respiratory Therapeutics (junior RC majors) are required to do a substantive paper including an extensive literature review in. Typically more than one student wins a writing award from the Minnesota Society of Respiratory Care (MSRC) — which is a monetary award for their research. It is quite an honor and a wonderful recognition."*  
Lori VanBeusekom, MA, RRT, Assistant Professor

#### **WHAT MAKES RESPIRATORY CARE UNIQUE AT ST. KATE'S?**

- ❑ You will benefit from small class size and close, supportive relationships with faculty known for their open-door policy. The program has a diverse student population.
- ❑ St. Kate's uses a one-to-one student and preceptor/practitioner model for teaching. You will work side-by-side with an expert in the field to develop clinical skills. Respiratory Care majors experience approximately 900 hours of clinical experience in critical care, adult care, pediatrics, neonatal, rehabilitation, home care, sleep medicine and pulmonary laboratory.
- ❑ Graduates of this program are well prepared to provide excellent patient care and influence the quality of health care services in diverse practice settings.
- ❑ Majors benefit from highly-qualified faculty who are experts in their fields and specialize in a number of areas including critical care, biomedical ethics, and pulmonary diagnostics. Faculty are active in the field and are involved with professional organizations such as the American Association for Respiratory Care.
- ❑ St. Kate's provides superior clinical sites for students in major medical centers throughout the Twin Cities.
- ❑ St. Kate's Respiratory Care graduates have a 100% pass rate on the Certification for Respiratory Therapist (CRT) exam.

#### **ACADEMIC AND ADVISING CONNECTIONS**

- ❑ Don't miss the Respiratory Care Department Open House in the fall. Learn about the major and ways this program prepares its students for advanced level practice as respiratory therapists.
- ❑ Meet with your First-year advisor throughout fall semester; discuss results of the Mapworks Survey and identify resources to get on track for success.
- ❑ Attend a respiratory care class or lab. (Contact rc@stkate.edu)
- ❑ Attend the TRW Salon during Family Weekend in the fall and learn what it means to be an educated women in the liberal arts.
- ❑ Refer to the Respiratory Care Student Handbook on the Respiratory Care department website. Register for identified first year courses to ensure your path for the program. Enroll in the appropriate pre-requisite math course for CHEM 1010 or CHEM 1110 and CHEM 1120 per math placement exam if needed. Discuss your course selection with Academic Advising, x6803.

### Applying to the Major:

Students are required to apply to enter the respiratory care major. To enter the respiratory care major, students must have completed 30 credit hours at a minimum overall GPA of 2.5, including prerequisite courses. Applications to the major are accepted between September 15 and May 30 prior to the fall semester when the student plans to begin course work in the respiratory care major. Admission to the Respiratory Care Major is contingent upon completion of prerequisite requirements at the designated levels of success and the availability of space.

St. Catherine University students who began their college experience at St. Kate's are given first access to available seats in the program. Students who indicate interest in the Respiratory Care Major after the May 30 deadline are encouraged to contact the program chair. Late applications to enter the major will be considered on an individual basis.

### Use the Tool:

*In addition to the St. Catherine Experience, use the following advising tools to ensure you graduate in the timeframe you expect!*

**Degree Evaluation:** Most up-to-date tool to view your degree progression: what classes you have taken and what you still need to complete

**Transfer Evaluation System (TES):** Use our TES database of over 50,000 pre-approved courses to see if your course has been approved for transfer.

- ❑ Register for 16 credits each and every term to graduate in 4 years if you are beginning your academic college career at St. Kate's. A January or summer course is a sure way to complete on-time.
- ❑ Talk to your advisor about possible classes to take Summer Session and to ensure you are on the right track.
- ❑ Use the "What if? Analysis" tool on Degree Works located on the Student tab of KateWay to see what courses you need to take.
- ❑ Once you are officially accepted into the program, officially declare your major. Go to the student tab in KateWay and review your academic profile.
- ❑ Strengthen writing and math skills at the O'Neill Center for Academic Development.

### CAREER DEVELOPMENT

#### Consider ways to connect your Respiratory Care major and interests to your future career plans

- ❑ Consider conducting an informational interview with a Respiratory Care alumna. Obtain names from the Career Development staff or from faculty within the department. Sample questions are available in Career Development.
- ❑ Contact the Respiratory Care department for information on respiratory care tours.
- ❑ Apply for student employment, internships and jobs. To begin, log in to KatieCareer and complete your profile. A résumé and cover letter will be needed to apply; Career Development can help you with this.

### SOCIAL JUSTICE AND SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

#### Learn about St. Kate's mission of social justice

- ❑ Take advantage of opportunities in Campus Ministry: sing, play an instrument, or perform liturgical dance. Explore faith-in-action through volunteer work or participation in a Justice Learning and Outreach trip (January or March). Contact Campus Ministry if interested.
- ❑ Attend the annual Myser Initiative on Catholic Identity lecture in the fall to hear from noted Catholic speakers.
- ❑ Develop a daily practice of reflection and meditation. Take advantage of the campus environment, grounds, Chapel, or other spaces you find solace.
- ❑ Act on St. Kate's commitment to justice through service-learning opportunities such as Volunteers in Action, Justice Learning & Outreach trips coordinated by Campus Ministry, and off-campus student employment such as America Reads coordinated by the Center for Community Work and Learning. Review courses offered each term that offer a service-learning component.

### COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

#### Get Involved in Campus Life

- ❑ Attend the annual Activities Fair in September. Join the Respiratory Care Club! Contact Respiratory Care faculty to make the connection. Activities of the club have included attending Camp Superkids, health fairs and the Boys and Girls Club. Another club which may be of interest is the Medical Interest Group. An Activities Fair also takes place in February.
- ❑ Attend an event at The O'Shaughnessy — one of the Twin Cities' premier theater venues right on campus!
- ❑ Meet with your Financial Aid counselor to ensure your financial plan supports your academic plan.
- ❑ Develop financial management skills; attend the university-wide, Money Management speaker series or register for the two-credit financial management course, INDI 2010: Personal Financial Fitness (only for first and second year students.)
- ❑ Use your St. Kate's Involvement Planner to manage class time and co-curricular activities.

*"We offer smaller class sizes, and good relationship building. We have an open-office-door policy that allows for great interaction. The cohort-based structure creates an environment for students to develop life-long friendships with one another. It is pretty amazing."*

Lori VanBeusekom, MA, RRT, Assistant Professor

## ACADEMIC AND ADVISING CONNECTIONS

- ❑ Attend the Second Year Celebration as a second-year student at St. Kate's. This is an important initiation event for scholars at St. Catherine University.
- ❑ Review your Mapworks survey with your advisor. Utilize campus resources suggested by your advisor.
- ❑ Be sure to follow the RC Program of Study Recommended 4 Year Calendar curriculum (available on the Respiratory Care websites: [stkate.edu/rc](http://stkate.edu/rc) and [minerva.stkate.edu/internal/resp\\_care.nsf](http://minerva.stkate.edu/internal/resp_care.nsf)). Courses required fall semester include RESP 2100: Introduction to Respiratory Care, BIOL 2515: Anatomy, and COMM 1030: Speaking to Lead and Influence. Spring semester required courses include RESP 2200: Therapeutics, BIOL 2520: Physiology, BIOL 2200: Introduction to Microbiology, and INDI 1150: Basic Patient Care and RESP 1160: Respiratory Patient Care and Assessment.
- ❑ Meet with department faculty to ensure you are on the right track.
- ❑ Attend a respiratory care class or lab (contact: [RC@stkate.edu](mailto:RC@stkate.edu))
- ❑ Talk with staff in the Office of Global Studies to plan a study-abroad experience. Get in touch with Global Studies early on to identify programs that will best fit into your academic planning. J-term and summer opportunities are also available.
- ❑ Take advantage of the faculty's "open-office-door policy." Stop in and learn about the course offerings and share your specific interests. Discuss possibilities for double majoring. Explore with your advisor how to integrate your interests with another major at St. Kate's.
- ❑ Consider becoming a Learning Assistant in the department. This is an excellent opportunity to develop interpersonal skills.
- ❑ Visit the various websites of the Clinical Affiliates of the Respiratory Care department and learn about the organization you will be involved in. Research the facilities and, in particular, the Respiratory Therapy Departments. (Go to the department website for links, [stkate.edu/rc](http://stkate.edu/rc) and [minerva.stkate.edu/internal/resp\\_care.nsf](http://minerva.stkate.edu/internal/resp_care.nsf).)
- ❑ Review your academic catalog and complete a Degree Evaluation, then meet with your advisor to identify which major, minor, liberal arts core and other graduation requirements you have left to complete. Continue to use the Degree Evaluation tool to make sure you are progressing in the timeline you want.
- ❑ Continue to earn a strong GPA to be considered for Lambda Beta, the national honor society for respiratory care, the Dean's List, Phi Beta Kappa, the Antonian Honors Program, prestigious post graduate scholarships, fellowships, and awards; and other University honors and awards.

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

- ❑ Join one of the many clubs and organizations that will help build your public speaking skills, leadership skills and develop your voice. Possible clubs include: the Black Students Association, Latino Student Association, International Students Organization (SCISO), Muslim Student Association, Students of Color, Pre-Law Club (provides an outlet for students interested in exploring the legal field, applying to law school, opportunities to learn from current attorneys and current laws/justice issues. This organization also supports the Mock Trial Team), and the Student Senate, the student governing body for Day, undergraduate students. Check out the opportunities at the annual Activities Fair in the fall and spring, or at the Student Center and Activities website or in the SCA office, 270 CdC.
- ❑ Learn financial management skills; consider taking a financial management course. Consider enrolling in the 2-credit INDI 2994: Personal Financial Fitness. Learn how to develop and live on a budget. These are life skills for everyone.

## Student Employment Opportunities in the Respiratory Care Department

Learning and Lab Assistant positions are available to Respiratory Care students. Learning and Lab Assistants are trained to help in the labs and tutor students for practical exams during weekends and evenings. Inquire within the department if interested.

## Get Involved ...

**The Respiratory Care Club** strives to provide a supportive network of those associated with the Respiratory Care Program. Not only will we further our education outside the classroom, but we develop a dynamic set of professional and leadership skills through active involvement in the community. Past activities include volunteering at Camp Superkids, attending community Health Fairs, and working with Boys and Girls club. Members have developed international connections as well. Join us! Current officers and contact information are available on the department's website.

**The Medical Interest Group** offers an opportunity to unite St. Kate's students who are entering healthcare professions. We explore the foundation of and current issues in healthcare to expand members' knowledge of the American medical system.

## Tips for Transfer Students

- Know that you are not alone: a number of Respiratory Care majors transfer to St. Kate's.
- Meet with a member of the Respiratory Care department faculty to develop an academic plan and identify courses to take. Email us at RC@stkate.edu.
- Review the St. Catherine University Respiratory Care Program Transfer Equivalence Guidelines (available on the department website) if you have any questions about which courses will transfer to St. Kate's.
- Read through the St. Catherine Experience Advising Tool in full to identify past opportunities you may want to investigate.
- Explore the department's websites: [stkate.edu/rc](http://stkate.edu/rc) and [minerva.stkate.edu/internal/resp\\_care.nsf](http://minerva.stkate.edu/internal/resp_care.nsf)
- Read the latest copy of *Advance RC* (free magazine, see department's website).
- Get involved! Get to know your peers in the department. Join the Respiratory Care Club or another club/organization that captures your interests.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE AND SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

- ❑ Enroll in a service-learning course (designated on the course schedule). Apply classroom theory to practice.
- ❑ Attend the Chili and Cornbread events offered in the Multicultural and International Programs and Services (MIPS) office to discuss important and engaging topics on diversity and inclusion.
- ❑ Attend a lecture sponsored by the Women's Studies and Critical Studies of Race and Ethnicity monthly discussion series in the Abigail Quigley McCarthy Center for Women. Learn about current issues impacting our surrounding communities.

## LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

- ❑ Build on your leadership skills. Take a leadership role in Student Senate, club or organization, LEAD Team, Students Who Are Parents (SWAP), students or serve as a Student Center Student Building Coordinator, an Orientation Leader or in other campus employment positions.
- ❑ Consider serving as a teaching assistant, research assistant or program collaborator. Explore Assistantship Mentoring Program (AMP) opportunities with faculty in your department. Expand your degree and résumé by participating in this program.

## CAREER DEVELOPMENT

- ❑ Continue to research the Respiratory Care field. Visit the Career Development library and website to learn all you can about the profession, employment outlook, etc. Obtain alumnae names and continue to conduct informational interviews with respiratory therapists in the field.
- ❑ Attend the Respiratory Care Student Job Fair sponsored by the Minnesota Society for Respiratory Care (MSRC). Students in all levels are encouraged to attend. This is a great opportunity to develop your awareness of the employment environment as well as begin networking! This event is held on the St. Kate's campus in the spring.
- ❑ Talk to your professors and invite them to share their wisdom, reflections, and their personal networks in the field.
- ❑ Review the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development Respiratory Therapist Occupational Data as well as the Respiratory Therapist statistics which can be found on the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (available on the Career Development website).
- ❑ Talk to your advisor about work environments available to respiratory therapists.

## Skills developed by Respiratory Care Majors

### Respiratory Care

- Assess physiologic responses to therapy, such as vital signs, arterial blood gases and pulmonary function changes
- Collaborate with physicians and nurses to generate respiratory care plans, protocols and disease management programs
- Set up and operate devices such as mechanical ventilators, therapeutic gas administration apparatus and aerosol generators, following specified parameters of treatment
- Troubleshoot and monitor equipment to ensure careful adherence to physicians' orders and ensure proper function

### Critical Thinking

- Apply critical thinking skills in cardiopulmonary diagnostics and patient assessments to optimize decision-making and delivery of patient care
- Summarize information based on a clearly defined argument
- Evaluate costs and benefits

### Professional Communication

- Serve as an effective member of an interdisciplinary health-care team including physicians, nurses, and other healthcare professionals to manage patient care by assisting with medical procedures or related duties
- Communicate in formats commonly used by respiratory therapists and present to audiences both formally and informally
- Explain treatment procedures to patients to gain cooperation and develop trust
- Demonstrate scientific and creative writing skills for case studies and research summaries
- Demonstrate responsiveness to patient reactions and behavior changes
- Maintain medical records and respect patients' privacy
- Facilitate conflict resolution

*“We are well-respected in the community. We have longtime relationships with the Respiratory Care Departments at the University of Minnesota Medical Center-Fairview, University of Minnesota Amplatz Children’s Hospital, Abbott Northwestern Hospital, Children’s Hospitals and Clinics, Hennepin County Medical Center, North Memorial Medical Center, and Methodist Hospital.”*

*Paul LaMere, MS, RRT, Associate Professor*

## ACADEMIC AND ADVISING CONNECTIONS

- ❑ Register for level two courses for fall semester that include: RESP 3100: Principles of Ventilation, RESP 3110: Clinical Applications I, RESP 3120: Pathophysiology in Critical Care I, and INDI 3150: Pharmacology. Required spring semester courses include RESP 3200: Advanced Therapeutics, RESP 3210: Clinical Applications II, and RESP 3220: Pathophysiology in Critical Care II.
- ❑ Discuss the clinical experience required during the summer between your junior and senior years (RESP 3310: Clinical Applications III, 6 credits). Learn about the specialized areas available for this important component of your program.
- ❑ Talk to your advisor about the possibilities of student-designed specialty opportunities within the curriculum to pursue deeper study in the areas of neonatal respiratory care, pulmonary functions laboratory or sleep studies, to name a few.
- ❑ Discuss opportunities to present your research or a paper at the St. Kate’s Scholarship Symposium, or submit your work for consideration for one of the monetary writing awards in the spring (see the “Enhance Your Major” highlighted box).
- ❑ Continue to strive for a strong GPA that will enable you to be considered for membership in Lambda Beta, the national honor society for respiratory care, Dean’s List, Phi Beta Kappa, and/or the Antonian Honor’s Program.
- ❑ Talk with a faculty member about opportunities to conduct research during the summer in the Collaborative Undergraduate Research program. Share your interest with faculty member(s) and plan early so you do not miss deadlines.
- ❑ Plan for your Global Search for Justice course: study and reflect on social justice issues. Consider choosing a section that offers an off-campus learning component such as service learning or study abroad.
- ❑ Get ahead and graduate early, or catch up on credits. Enrolling in a Summer Session course at St. Kate’s is a great way to do it!

## CAREER DEVELOPMENT

- ❑ Discuss internship options with your Respiratory Care advisor; schedule a subsequent meeting with the Internship Director in Career Development for internship program information. Include real work experience on your résumé.
- ❑ Attend the Annual Career Opportunities Fair and Government & Non-Profit Career Fair (fall) to explore opportunities. Practice your interviewing skills for internships and employment opportunities.
- ❑ Plan to attend the Minnesota Society of Respiratory Care conference in the spring. Students can request funding to help with conference costs from Student Senate.

## Study Abroad Experiences

Develop the skills, abilities, and qualities that result from international experience and that employers will look for: cooperative problem solving, tolerance for ambiguity, respect for diversity, open-mindedness, self-reliance, and adaptability.

Find out about the best time for Respiratory Care majors to study abroad by visiting with staff in Global Studies as well as with your faculty advisor. Find out what courses in the Core Curriculum can be satisfied abroad including Fine Arts, History and Literature. Start planning during your first year for best results. January term options for elective or liberal arts requirements are available any time.

Meet with staff in Global Studies early in your academic planning for best options. Your advisor, the Department Chair and Global Studies staff have information on the best study abroad programs for completing major courses and staying on track towards graduation.

Attend the Study Abroad Fair in February. Application deadline for spring semester is October 1; for summer, fall or year, March 1. J-term priority application deadline is mid-April.

## Department of Respiratory Care Faculty and Staff

John Boatright	Associate Professor & Department Chair	x7819	jeboatright@stkate.edu
Molly E. Quinn Jensen	Director of Clinical Education/Assistant Professor	x7820	mequinnjensen@stkate.edu
Paul LaMere	Associate Professor	x6254	pelamere@stkate.edu
Lori VanBeusekom	Assistant Professor	x7812	lbvanbeusekom@stkate.edu
David Ingbar, M.D.	Medical Director	x7819	
Robert Kempainen, M.D.	Medical Director	x7819	
Hyun Kim, M.D.	Medical Director	x7819	
Darwin Lindblom	Administrative Assistant	x8679	dllindblom@stkate.edu

*“Those students who go on to the advanced/voluntary exam do well: 90% pass the first time. In the previous year, we won one of the highest national awards because of our high pass rate: the RRT Award from the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care. This award is based on a three-year-track; 90% of our students passed the advanced-level voluntary exam.”*  
Paul LaMere, MS, RRT,  
Associate Professor and Director  
of Clinical Education

### Financial Aid

Be sure to meet with your assigned Financial Aid Counselor (one of your Campus Connections) once every term to ensure that your financial aid package will support your academic plan.

- ❑ Utilize the graduate school resources in the Career Development library or on the Career Development website if you are considering graduate school. Attend the Graduate School Fair in October. Start the application process early, consider the application process like a course itself! Talk with a career counselor about the pros and cons of attending graduate school right after graduation.
- ❑ Finalize a draft of your résumé with a career counselor.
- ❑ Consider creating an electronic portfolio to highlight your skills and accomplishments. See the eFolioMinnesota website at: [efoliominnesota.com](http://efoliominnesota.com) for information. Wondering what to include in a portfolio? Meet with one of the career counselors in Career Development.
- ❑ Attend the Respiratory Care Student Job Fair sponsored by the Minnesota Society for Respiratory Care (MSRC). Students in all levels are encouraged to attend. Sharpen your networking skills as this is a perfect opportunity to expand your networking contacts! Inquire about internships in the field as well.

### LEADERSHIP AND STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

- ❑ Serve as an officer in the Respiratory Club or another club or organization of which you are a part. Develop important leadership skills to enhance your résumé.
- ❑ If you have not done so yet, inquire about serving as a Learning Assistant in the department. Add the important skills of teaching, interpersonal communication, listening, and evaluation to your list of transferable skills for your résumé.

### SOCIAL JUSTICE AND SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

- ❑ Connect with the CSJs through Prayer Partners (Campus Ministry) or volunteer at Carondelet Village.
- ❑ Enroll in courses that connect you to the arts, music and performance; attend events at The O’Shaughnessy that bring forms of beauty to campus.

### Strive to become your best...

Consider these academic, scholarly opportunities to build your résumé and overall St. Catherine experience.

**Lambda Beta** is the national honor society for the profession of respiratory care. The honor society was formed in 1986 to promote, recognize and honor scholarship, scholarly achievement, service, and character of students, graduates, and faculty members of the profession. The name of the society is based on the goals of the respiratory care profession: sustaining “life and breath” for all mankind. To qualify for membership, a respiratory care student must have completed 50 percent of their respiratory care courses and hold a GPA which ranks in the top 25 percent of the respiratory class. The individual must be of good character and be nominated by faculty or chapter officers from a Lambda Beta Chapter. Also a graduate who meets the 25 percent criteria at time of graduation can become a member of Lambda Beta as an Alumni member. For more information, talk to any faculty member in the Respiratory Care Department or visit the Lambda Beta website: [lambdabeta.org](http://lambdabeta.org).

**Antonian Scholars Honors Program** will challenge you academically. Discuss criteria with your academic advisor. The Antonian Scholars Honors Program offers students of superior ability and motivation an opportunity to study and work with peers and with faculty mentors in a specially designed program of the liberal arts. It is comprised of interdisciplinary honors seminars or a combination of at least two seminars and pre-approved equivalents, and an independent research study conducted during the senior year. Contact your advisor for more information, pick up a copy of the SCE Antonian Scholars Honors Program Guide or visit the Antonian Scholars Honors website

**Phi Beta Kappa** is the nation’s oldest and most prestigious undergraduate honor society which recognizes achievement in the liberal arts. Respiratory Care majors who choose to double major with a liberal arts major should contact Art and Art History Professor Amy Hamlin, Chapter President or Biology Professor Martha Phillips, Secretary for more information.

**Post Graduate National Fellowships and Scholarships** Students seeking post-graduate fellowships and scholarships, including Fulbright, Rhodes, Truman, Marshall, Rotary and Goldwater can receive expert advice through a mentoring program. They can also receive funding to prepare materials for submission and interviews. The application process for these prestigious programs takes thoughtful planning and mentoring from faculty. Plan ahead. Contact: Dr. Lynda Szymanski, Professor of Psychology and Director of Collaborative Undergraduate Research, x6625, [laszymanski@stkate.edu](mailto:laszymanski@stkate.edu).

### ACADEMIC AND ADVISING CONNECTIONS

- ❑ Register for fall semester courses including RESP 4100: Advanced Critical Care, RESP 4110: Clinical Specialty I, and PHIL 3400: Biomedical Ethics; required spring semester courses include RESP 4200: Senior Seminar, RESP 4210: Clinical Specialty II and CORE 3990: Global Search for Justice.
- ❑ Discuss the opportunity to present your research at the Sister Seraphim Gibbons Undergraduate Research Symposium, an on-campus event that celebrates student scholarship and collaborative research held each spring.
- ❑ Complete and submit the “Declaration of Intent to Graduate or Complete Certification” form by November 30 if you will graduate in May. Go to KateWay, “Campus Resources.” Link to Office of the Registrar, then “Fill Out a Form.” Choose “Forms for Students” and select “Intent to Graduate or Complete Certification” form. Meet with your academic advisor to review the Degree Evaluation and the Academic Catalog. Make adjustments as necessary. Go to Student tab in KateWay, link to Degree Evaluation.

### CAREER DEVELOPMENT

- ❑ Meet with a Career Counselor to ensure you have developed a job search plan; finalize your résumé and practice your interviewing and networking skills. Connect with alumnae and attend events sponsored by professional organizations.
- ❑ Use your Career Development “Senior Planner” to successfully plan this year.
- ❑ Identify faculty and staff on campus who could serve as references for your job search. Make sure you develop appropriate timelines so that you are able to meet deadlines for completed applications.
- ❑ Attend the Twin Cities Graduate School Fair in the fall. Make sure you are aware of deadlines and application procedures if you plan to attend graduate or professional school. Complete graduate school applications if you hope to attend in fall semester of the next year. Most doctoral program applications are due in December or January for fall admittance. Master-level programs sometimes have later deadlines. Explore scholarship available for graduate school. View information on the Career Development and Financial Aid website.
- ❑ Participate in the annual Respiratory Care Student Job Fair sponsored by the Minnesota Society for Respiratory Care (MSRC). Make sure your résumé has been professionally reviewed, that you are able to clearly articulate your skills/knowledge and experience confidently, and that you are prepared for interviews. (Résumé review and job interview coaching available in Career Development)

### LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

- ❑ Mentor other students for leadership roles within the department and in student organizations to which you belong.
- ❑ Serve as a Learning Assistant in the department.

### SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

- ❑ Take time to reflect on the amazing education you have received; for the compassionate faculty who have nurtured your skills, knowledge, and passion for the arts; for those who have provided meaningful mentoring throughout your education; and for the holistic education you have experienced at St. Kate's.

### COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

- ❑ Prepare to assume independent financial responsibility by understanding and planning to repay your student loans. Attend the Money Management speaker series to develop life skills of financial management.
- ❑ Consider post-graduate service to further live out St. Kate's commitment to social justice. Learn about opportunities in the Community Work and Learning office.

### RESP 4200: Senior Seminar

This capstone course provides an opportunity to critically evaluate the professional literature in respiratory care for evidence-based practice. You will conduct an in-depth review of current topics and materials to prepare for your comprehensive program examination and national board exam. In this course, you will perform an actual supervised research project. Papers and presentations are often recognized in national and regional RC competitions.

### Career Paths for Respiratory Care Majors

The Respiratory Care Program has a 100% passing rate on the CRT exam and survey results indicate 100% employment within the profession for graduates. In addition to performing therapeutic and diagnostic procedures, Respiratory Care graduates find satisfying employment in the areas of cardiopulmonary wellness, disease prevention, disease management, home care and community education.

A sampling of our graduates ...

**Heidi Erickson, RRT**, Gillette Children's Specialty Hospital

**Haweya Farah, RRT**, University of Minnesota Medical Center, Fairview

**Holly Kaess, RRT**, Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota

**Mai Lee, RRT**, Ridgeview Medical Center, Fairview Hospital

**Jessica Marlow, RRT**, Regions Hospital

**Molly Quinn Jensen, RRT**, Maple Grove Hospital

*“Our goal is to prepare students for advanced practice and leadership in the community. We have a 100% pass rate.”*

*John Boatright, Ph.D., RRT,  
Associate Professor and  
Department Chair*

- ❑ Celebrate graduation and all your accomplishments. Celebrate your own academic achievements as well as those of your peers at the annual Honors & Awards ceremony held early May.
- ❑ As you prepare for graduation, celebrate all your connections to the University, including mentoring relationships with faculty and staff and lifelong friendships with your classmates.
- ❑ Become oriented to Alumnae Relations, and learn how to become an active and supportive alumna of the University.

## Professional Organizations and Professional Development Opportunities

**Become involved with the professional organizations that support your career.**

**American Association of Respiratory Care (AARC)** represents the social and political interests of more than 35,000 respiratory care professionals nationwide. AARC also publishes the *Respiratory Care Journal* ([aarc.org](http://aarc.org))

**Minnesota Society of Respiratory Care (MSRC)** is the state affiliate of AARC. The MSRC Annual Conference is held in April.

*NOTE: Because of St. Kate's Respiratory Care Faculty's AARC memberships, the AARC/MSRC student membership is free.*

*NOTE: MSRC sponsors the annual Respiratory Care Student Job Fair. Students in all levels are encouraged and expected to attend. This is a great networking opportunity even if you are not currently seeking employment.*

**National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC)** is responsible for credentialing respiratory care practitioners and other related cardiopulmonary professions in the U.S. ([nbrc.org](http://nbrc.org))

**The Minnesota Board of Medical Practice** regulates the Respiratory Therapists license in Minnesota. ([mn.gov/health-licensing-boards/medical-practice](http://mn.gov/health-licensing-boards/medical-practice))

**Advance for RC**, a free magazine for practitioners. ([respiratory-care-sleep-medicine.advanceweb.com](http://respiratory-care-sleep-medicine.advanceweb.com))

**The Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC)** accredits all respiratory care programs. Look for comparative statistics about program performance. ([coarc.com](http://coarc.com))

## Enhance your Respiratory Care Major • Choose 2 (or more!)

Consider these academic, scholarly opportunities to build your résumé and overall St. Catherine experience.

- ❑ **Conduct a research project** and present your research at a regional or national conferences such as the Minnesota Society of Respiratory Care (MSRC) or the American Association of Respiratory Care. Talk to faculty in the department about these and related opportunities.
- ❑ **Study abroad!** Consider taking CORE courses in a study abroad program. Contact Global Studies to review programs that will best fit into your academic plan.
- ❑ Apply for an **Assistantship Mentoring Program (AMP)** for your junior and senior years. The Assistantship Mentoring Program provides meaningful, well-paid student employment that challenges students to apply academic learning and prepare for their careers by working one-to-one with a staff or faculty mentor. Through AMP, students participate in a scholarly community enabling them to apply academic and co-curricular learning in meaningful experiences that gives them a competitive edge with employers and graduate admissions.
- ❑ Consider earning a **minor in Leadership Studies** which is dedicated to the exploration of the theory and practice of leadership. The minor educates women to take on the unique challenges faced by female leaders in a multicultural global community. The minor requires 18 credits of course work (plus prerequisites, if applicable). Contact the Communication Studies Department for more information.
- ❑ Apply for the **Undergraduate Summer Research Program**. Work side-by-side with a faculty member on original research and earn a generous stipend in one of these great opportunities to add to your résumé and/or experience for graduate school. Year-long and summer opportunities are available. Inquire with any of the Respiratory Care professors.
- ❑ **Present/submit a paper** for one of the University scholarships or monetary awards including the annual Awards for Research and Creative Work (through the Abigail Quigley McCarthy Center for Women), Bonnie Jean Kelly and Joan Kelly Student Excellence Awards in Creative & Scholarly Writing and the O'Leary McCarthy Scholarship for Excellence in Undergraduate Writing. For more information on these two awards, go to the Writing Intensive Program homepage on KateWay, then Student Resource tab and Writing Awards.
- ❑ Inquire about **Post Graduate National Fellowship and Scholarship** opportunities. Students seeking post-graduate fellowships and scholarships, including Fulbright, Rhodes, Truman, Marshall, Rotary and Goldwater can receive expert advice through a mentoring program. They can also receive funding to prepare materials for submission and interviews. The application process for these prestigious programs requires thoughtful planning and mentoring from faculty. **PLAN AHEAD.** Contact Dr. Lynda Szymanski, Professor of Psychology and Director of Collaborative Undergraduate Research, x6625, [laszymanski@stkate.edu](mailto:laszymanski@stkate.edu).