



Mercy Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Newsletter

Fall 2020

From Your President:

Hello Alumni,

I hope that you and your families are safe, and well! I am excited to share this edition of The Mercy Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association Newsletter with all of you! In our last edition we reached out to all of our amazing alumni to recognize your accomplishments, and work as a Mercy Nurse. Thank you for your overwhelming response! Although, we could not celebrate together in person this year, I hope that you will find this newsletter filled with alumni news, celebrations, memories, and helpful information.

As the holiday season quickly approaches, I hope that you find yourself surrounded with family, friends, good health, and many blessings.

Sincerely,
Corie Schultheis



Graduate Emma Oliver

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McAuley Inn Renovations

Together, Mercy Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association and the family of Joan Kibelbek Kollar (MHSON '55) were able to support the McAuley Inn with generous donations that provided much needed renovations. A donor recognition event will be planned in the future once it is safe for everyone to be together again.



Mercy School of Nursing Update

Hello fellow alumni!

I hope this newsletters find everyone safe and well. What a different and difficult few months it has been for all of us. You will be happy to know that the school of nursing has been surviving and thriving in these trying times. In March when PA Governor Tom Wolfe closed all schools in the commonwealth, we were tasked with the challenge of figuring out how to deliver a nursing program in an on-line format. All we can say is thank the heavens for creative faculty and technology. As you may know they school has invested in various technology resources over the past few years that supplement both the classroom and clinical experiences. What a lifesaver these were during these times.

We were able to continue to deliver the program 100% on-line utilizing technology that allowed us to have live classes, remote testing and virtual clinical simulations. It was so important that we keep our graduates on track as the need for nurses is now more critical than ever.

We are proud to say we were able to graduate 34 nurses in August and have another 61 students on track to graduate in December. Although, these ceremonies look different due to local social distancing restrictions, it is never the less one of the proudest days for the graduates to be able to celebrate their achievements. We also admitted 74 new students on August 31st. We currently have over 150 total students in the program.

To all our graduates who are on the front-lines of this pandemic, our thoughts and prayers are with you. We know you are caring for these patients and families with grace and the touch of Mercy that you carry with you every day.

Best regards,

Angela M Balistrieri RN DNP '96
Director, Mercy Hospital School of Nursing

Please enjoy photos of our graduates throughout the newsletter!

Class of 1959's 60th Anniversary

On September 4, 2019, eighteen classmates and 12 guests gathered at the Meadows Casino for 60th reunion celebration. A delicious dinner was enjoyed by all. Four other classmates had made reservations but ill health prevented them from attending - Concetta Banadeo Thomas (caring for ill husband); Mary Jo La Gavic Zubic (emergency surgery); Patti Frioni Tellish; Sandra Yajko Tucker and husband Donald's flights were canceled due to a hurricane. Their refunds were graciously donated to the alumni scholarship fund. Thank you!

Our reunion began with prayers, a rededication to Our Lady of Mercy, singing of our Mercy School of Nursing Alma Mater, and a remembrance of our 25 deceased class angels. The afternoon progressed with many hugs, chatter, and joyful laughter. Notes, letters, and pictures sent by classmates who were unable to attend were shared along with a display of our Mercy pin, cap, cape, and graduation group picture. Door prizes and complementary casino tickets were awarded. Our evening ended with pleasant memories and plans to meet in the future. We adjourned to the casino, hoping to meet lady luck!



Class of 1962 Classmates enjoy lunch at Olive Garden before Covid



From left: Carol Zanderelle Kuzemko, Mary Jane Vogt Charitan, Karen McGranahan Guiser

Do you keep in touch with your old classmates or Mercy nurses?

MHSN Alumni Association is attempting to reach and keep in touch with as many Mercy Nurses as possible. Our goal is 100%. Please forward any & all information you have to mercyalums@gmail.com so we can update our database.

Thank you very much!

Sister Carolyn Schallenberger RSM
Dorothy Kornosky Mayernik '67
Mary Ann Curley McDonough '75

Please join us in remembering MHSN Alumni, family, and members of the Mercy family who have recently passed away. A link to the virtual memorial mass will be available on our website: <http://mhsnpittsburghalumni.com/> under the MHSN News link, and on our Facebook page - *Mercy Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association*.
The virtual mass will be available after 8am on Sunday November 8, 2020



MHSN Angels

Our deepest condolences



Name	Date of Death	Graduation Yr.
Elizabeth Baxter O'Neill	08/15/20	1942
Captain Norma Gardill Boyette	03/27/20	1946
Elizabeth Ann Schupay Morrison	04/27/20	1947
Elizabeth Jelenski Stanislaw	07/20/16	1947
Margaret Berus Eckenrode	05/16/20	1950
Mary J. Allen Kusbit	03/30/20	1953
Francis Davis	11/2015	1955
Mary Elise Brown Richardson	09/28/20	1957
Geraldine F. Schottenheimer Woodward	12/15/19	1957
Janet Schigel Pallotti	01/09/20	1958
Paulette Marie Tarnek Smith	06/12/20	1958
Marie M. Wudarsky Brant	05/29/18	1958
Maryanne Fermanis Young	02/16/20	1959
Carolyn Ryall Baierlein	02/2019	1959
Mary Lou Daquila Schollaert	06/20/20	1959
Ethel Marie Tittnich	06/02/20	1959
Mary Ann Wuchina Waterman	2016	1959
Patricia Lee Weinert	08/05/20	1959
Elaine Morgan Weithorn	09/05/20	1959
Mary A. Kossler Collins	07/04/20	1960
Sandra Finkbeiner Gearhart	11/04/19	1961
Marilyn M. Pegher Macurak	04/2020	1961
Elizabeth Green DeBose	04/01/20	1965
Beatrice Haines Sisson Kersten	06/21/20	1965
Mary Cathleen Pusateri McGovern	05/18/19	1966
Michael Kielman Eder	11/02/19	1967
Kathleen A. Zaichuk Coppula	12/26/19	1974
Sherri L. Frick Freiters	04/27/20	1982
Ruth Gandy Sanford	10/17/20	1990

Scholarship Corner

Please join us in congratulating Shannon (Squires) Roberts and Pam King—Our 2020 scholarship recipients!

My name is Shannon (Squires) Roberts, I was a Mercy SON graduate in December of 2015. I began my nursing career at UPMC Mercy on 11E, an inpatient ortho/trauma/burn floor. After a series of medical and personal issues, I was forced to drop down to casual at Mercy and found another casual position in outpatient radiology. I quickly learned that I needed to prioritize my health and education so I can get into better career opportunities that are less stress on the mind and body.

I am currently going to Chamberlain University online in their RN to BSN program and have found most of my education to be very interesting. It has been good for me to be back in school and keeping my mind busy. I recently married my high school sweetheart and we live with our golden retriever and Siamese kitten in Irwin, PA. I am very grateful to the Alumni Board for choosing me to receive a scholarship to help with the payment of school. After I complete my degree, I would be very interested in exploring a nurse navigator position or possibly a program coordinator. I am very passionate about the care of trauma patients and see my future in this specialty. Thank you again for providing me assistance with my education!

Sincerely,
Shannon Roberts

My Name is Pam King. I am a member of the Mercy Hospital School of Nursing Class of 1986. I decided after 34 years of being a Diploma Nurse that it was time to get my BSN, especially since I told my niece she needed to get hers. She is attending Seton Hill University and is in her second year. I would not trade any of my nursing school experiences or the friendships made during that time. Those friendships are still maintained to this day.

After much debate and research, I decided to attend an online school. I am in what is hopefully my last two semesters at Walden University. I am not sure where my BSN will take me or what doors will open once I am finished. I have been employed at UPMC Shadyside in the Cardiothoracic ICU for the last 33 years. I love bedside nursing and my coworkers.

I reached out to the MHSN Alumni Association and applied for a scholarship and I was lucky enough to be awarded this year's scholarship. I am so grateful to the Alumni Association for choosing me. I can say you are never too old to go back to school, this is the first I have been in school since 1986. Good luck to all thinking of continuing on with school. You can do it!

Sincerely,
Pam King

The Mercy Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association awards annual scholarships to any alumni member who is pursuing an advanced degree in nursing. Applicant must be a member of the alumni association, be enrolled in a BSN, MSN, DNP, or PhD program, and submit a letter of need and a copy of enrolled courses as well as the cost of said courses.

To apply, please submit letter of need and course info to:

Michele Buraczewski, RN, MSN
MHSN Alumni Association
PO Box 53123
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
or buraczewskim@upmc.edu

News Shared

- ⇒ S.(Gawlowski)Anisko, 1968—Celebrated 50th Wedding Anniversary in 2019 and moved to Dayton, Ohio
- ⇒ L. Reese, 2018 – Completed BSN at Chamberlain University (College of Nursing) with BSN. Starting Masters to become a Nurse Practitioner this summer.
- ⇒ M. (Zitney) Lengvarsky, 1977—Congratulations to Mark Lengvarsky, MSN, RN, TCRN, class of 2010 on his recent promotion to Administrator, Patient Care Services at Lehigh Valley Health Network
- ⇒ L. (Lester) Jolly, 1972.- Retired this year.
- ⇒ B. (Vasiloff) Mesher, 1957 - Remembers: Enema solutions made on night duty from left over soap, cleaning thermometers with yellow zephyran, making newspaper bed bags, we recycled everything, picking up our student uniform and starched cap from laundry and Julie knew us all by name.
- ⇒ B. White, 2014—Started nursing career at UPMC Mercy Trauma/Burn ICU. Currently Clinical Coordinator for the Heart Failure and Cardiac Transplant program at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.
- ⇒ M. (Federick) Settler, 2015—Completing FNP program in May 2020. Was working in Oncology ER Urgent Care and Hospice in San Diego, California. Will be moving to Chicago, Illinois with her husband and daughter.
- ⇒ M.R. Hurley, 1979 – Post Mercy went on to receive my BSN at La Roche University and then a MPA degree from Golden Gate University. Career has been devoted to care of older adults in post-acute care. I have been on the operations/business end of this field for over 20 years. I am currently the executive director of an assisted living facility for persons living with HIV.
- ⇒ A Szymanski-Szekely, 2014 – Worked 2.5 years in CVICU at Mercy Hospital. Earned BSN from Slippery Rock University in 2015. Worked for CORE for a year prior to taking position at Forbes Hospital AHN in Case Management. Currently a Nurse Navigator with Palliative Medicine at Forbes Hospital. My wife and I reside in Plum, PA. Expecting our first child in October to join the rest of our family; 2 dogs and 2 cats.
- ⇒ P(Bucy) Zaken, 1985 - I am married 32 years. I have 2 children and one grandson. I currently work for a health insurance company doing utilization management. I am fortunate enough to work from home.
- ⇒ S. (Hoagland) Schmidt, 2014 - I have been a nurse on 12E at UPMC Mercy for the past 6 years. Completed BSN at SRU in 2017. My husband was working on 12E as a RN in 2014 when I started. We met during bedside shift report in room 2. We married in 2018. We are expecting our first child in January 2021.
- ⇒ J. (Lache) Rudolph, 1977. Received BSN in 1986. MSN in 2006. Worked as a Diabetic Educator at Butler Memorial Hospital and retired in 2020.



Thank you for all the submissions! If you don't see your own, look for it in the Spring Newsletter!

Alumni Association Dues Renewal 2021

Please detach and return with your dues/donation

First	Maiden	Last	Class
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Address

Email address

Phone number

\$20 membership _____ Donation to: MHSN Alumni Assoc. _____ MHSN _____

Please make checks payable to MHSN Alumni Association and mail to:
MHSN Alumni, PO Box 53123, Pittsburgh, PA 15219



James Weber



Kiley DeOrio and Shyan Fluharty



Kiera Davis and Janaya Kennedy

**Please connect with us on social
media and the web!**

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Page: Mercy Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association

Group: Mercy Hospital School of Nursing Pittsburgh Alumni

Follow us on Instagram: @mhsnpghalumni

Website: <http://www.mhsnpittsburghalumni.com/>

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