

# Mercy Hospital School of Nursing

## Alumni Newsletter

Spring 2020

### From Your President:

Greetings Alumni!

I hope that this newsletter finds you and your family safe, healthy, and blessed! I am honored to serve as the current President of The Mercy Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association. My name is Corie (Greece) Schultheis. I'm a proud graduate of the class of 2007. After graduation I have been blessed with several career opportunities that have included Medical Surgical Nursing, Pediatric Nursing, and most recently faculty within the UPMC Schools of Nursing. I went on to further my education and received my BSN, and MSN from Carlow University. I am so thankful for the education that I received at Mercy Hospital School of Nursing, and I practice the Mercy values every day!

As we embark on a new year filled with exciting times and uncertainty, our board is working hard to reach out to all of our amazing alumni. This is the **Year of the Nurse**, and we want to connect with and recognize our graduates to learn about what you are doing and celebrate your hard work and dedication to the profession of nursing. We are enhancing our communication through social media, and we are offering a BOGO membership to all of you in hopes that you will connect with us. Consider joining us as a board member, or by attending one of our events. Please take the time to read about all of the things we have going on inside this edition of our newsletter.

Finally, I value your feedback and support. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any ideas, suggestions, or just to say hello! My email is corie\_greece@hotmail.com.

Stay safe and well!

Sincerely,

Corie (Greece) Schultheis  
Class of 2007



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### EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Corie Greece Schultheis, '07

Director of MHSN

Angela Balistrieri, '96

Treasurer

Sister Carolyn

Schallenberger, RSM

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joanne Lowrie '57

Linda Fowler '62

Dorothy Mayernik '67

Debbie Evers '75

Mary Ann Curley

McDonough '75

Cheryl DiNardo '80

Margie Thompson '84

Michele Buraczewski '86

## Membership Opportunity!

Dear Mercy Graduate,

Being an active alumni member of the Mercy Hospital School of Nursing is a professional opportunity to keep in touch with classmates and lifelong friends. As a paid member, you will be kept informed of what is happening at the SON and with your colleagues. Through our bi-annual newsletter you will have access to events and updates.

### **This year we're offering a buy one, get one (BOGO) deal!**

Dues are only \$20.00 a year, and whenever you join and submit a name of another potential member, he or she will receive a one year membership FOR FREE!

Take advantage of this special promotion today!

Why support the Alumni Association? With your support we can continue to promote the culture of competence, caring and compassion, as well as developing leaders in varying fields of practice. We offer scholarships for continuing education of Mercy nurses and events for our alumni. I hope this request reminds you of the solid education you received to launch your nursing career. We need YOU to help keep our legacy alive. Please visit our website at <http://mhsnpittsburghalumni.com>, and on Facebook at Mercy Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association for more information.

In Mercy,

Deborah Lindsey Comunale Evers '75



## Volunteers Needed

The Mercy School of Nursing is planning a multi-disciplinary Geriatric Simulation Activity for our nursing students. We are seeking volunteers to play the role of an older adult who is visiting a clinic for a well visit or routine check-up. Nursing students will be conducting an interview and gathering appropriate health history information. You may be asked questions about current and past medical history, including medication and diet history, family & living arrangements, social & recreational activities, education, career, etc.

The main idea of this activity is to enhance our student's awareness of the needs of the older adult population and like you, lead healthy, productive lives well into retirement years. We hope you will be able to share with our students, how you promote your own health and wellness.

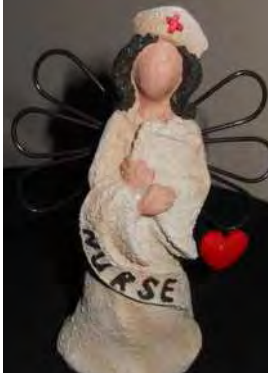


We are currently seeking volunteers for Summer months (May-August), Dates are to be determined. If you are interested please contact Angela at [balistrieria@upmc.edu](mailto:balistrieria@upmc.edu) or 412-232-7205.

# *MHSN Angels*

## *Our deepest condolences*

Michaela (Kielman) Eder '67      1/02/19  
Sandra (Finkbeiner) Gearhart '61      11/04/19  
Janet (Schigel) Pallotti '58      01/09/20



## **ALUMNI MEMORY**

In the summer of 1956 a group of my classmates decided to go out to Schenley Park to sunbathe and have fun. We left the SON in our blouses and skirts, but underneath were shorts and halter tops. We knew we were not allowed to leave the school unless we looked like young ladies, but we had a grand time taking pictures. I still have some in my Mercy photo album! At the same time, a group of seniors were at the park doing the same thing as us! Well along came a reporter and cameraman from one of the newspapers. They took pictures of the seniors then everyone came back to the school—looking a little red from the sun and wearing our blouses and skirts of course! Does anyone remember what happened the next day? The newspaper had an article about the Mercy student nurses having fun in the sun! Sister saw it and lowered the BOOM. The seniors were called down to face sister and threats were made against their graduation. My classmates and myself were so lucky because we were not in one of the photos. I never found out if their graduation went on as usual!

---Submitted by Joanne Griffin Lowrie '57

## **Sheltering the Homeless: A Corporal Work of Mercy**

Many of our patients come from out of town and out of state. Mercy Hospital provided rooms through McAuley Inn. In the beginning, this was a house furnished by the Zonta Society on Forbes Avenue with shuttle service in the middle of the night, if needed, by the Mercy security van.

As the need became greater and the wear and tear of the house became evident, rooms were made available on the top floor of the Southeast wing of the hospital. This made it easier for families to see their loved ones and to have a place of respite as needed. The need increased even more, and additional rooms were made available in the Mercy Health Center (MHC) apartments.

These rooms are constantly in use and in need of upgrading. Donations were received by the UPMC Mercy Foundation in memorial for a family member. To meet the estimated cost, funding was requested from the MHSN Alumni Association. The Board discussed the request as well as available funds at the March MHSN Alumni Board meeting.

Throughout the years your donations have been used for scholarships to assist Alumni in furthering their education. The last major donation was toward the renovation of the MHSN Auditorium in 1995. The MHSN is well funded for equipment and scholarships. The MHSN Alumni money needed a valued purpose. The Board considered the request and made a gift of \$15,000 to supplement upgrading the apartments.

With the opening of the Vision and Rehabilitation Center, which is being built at this time, there is an even greater need for housing anticipated. These rooms will be an asset to our patients and families who will need an overnight stay in the city after surgery. Your generosity will help many people. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

## **SAVE THE DATE !**

*We hope to see you at the following events this year!  
More information to come!*

**Designer Purse Bash**  
**Saturday October 10, 2020**  
Mercy Hospital  
Sr. Ferdinand Clark Auditorium

**Annual All Class Reunion and  
Memorial Mass and Brunch**

**Saturday November 14, 2020**

**Mass to begin at 10:30am**

Mercy Hospital Chapel &  
Sr. Ferdinand Clark Auditorium

**\$10 per person**

\*RSVP by October 10, 2020 to  
Sister Carolyn Schallenberger RSM  
MHSN Alumni Assoc. P.O. Box 53123  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

## **Donate to the MHSN**

UPMC Mercy School of Nursing takes pride in preparing students with the tools they need to deliver the highest quality of care to patients.

The Nursing Scholarship Fund at UPMC Mercy is able to provide support each year to students excelling in the classroom and on the clinical floor.

Your contribution can significantly impact the success of our students as they follow their passion and advance into the field of nursing.

For more information on how you can support scholarship programs at UPMC Mercy, please contact Jennifer Teufel at 412-232-9025 or [teufelj@upmc.edu](mailto:teufelj@upmc.edu)

## **Scholarship Corner**

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](mailto:buraczewskim@upmc.edu)

*Good Luck!*

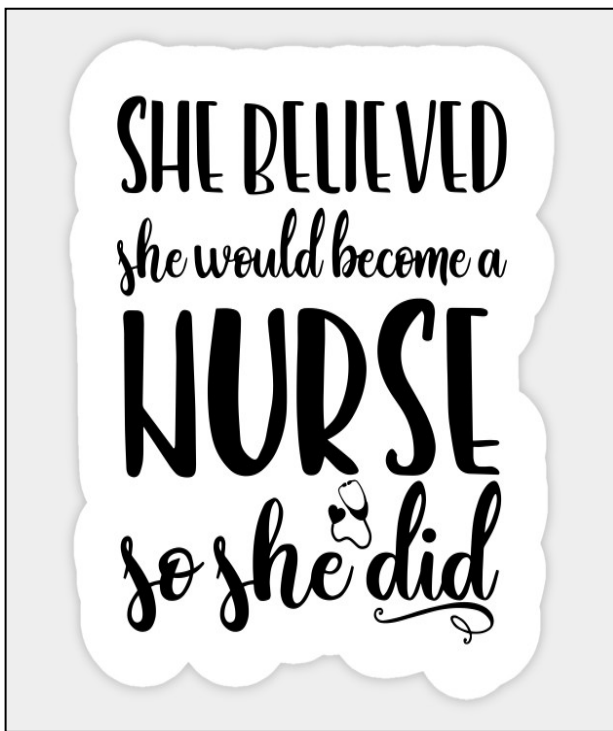


# PHOTO GALLERY



**Did you  
Know?**

***To date, Mercy Hospital  
School of Nursing has  
graduated 6,106 students!***



The class of 1958 celebrated its 60th reunion on Saturday, September 8, 2018. Fourteen classmates attended the luncheon at Houlihan's in the Galleria. Notes from members who were unable to attend were passed around and everyone was updated on the latest, and not so latest, news. Where did all the time go, and how did we get so old?

A great time was had by all, and promises were made to keep in touch!

## **Increasing Membership**

One of the 2020 goals of our Board of Directors is to increase membership. I think we can agree that our nursing school experience and bonding with our fellow classmates had a lot to do with our accomplishments in life, both professionally and personally! As MHSN Alumni, we can continue to share those friendships and do some good by supporting current nursing students at MHSN and “Works of Mercy” to benefit the sick, underserved, and their families.

The Board will be reaching out to the alumni in our database who have email addresses on file. When you hear from us, please reply back to us at [mercyalums@gmail.com](mailto:mercyalums@gmail.com) with any contact information for your classmates that you have kept in touch with over the years.

Printing and mailing the newsletter to Alumni Assn. members currently in our database will continue, and we hope to reach many more Mercy alumni via email copies. Visit our MHSN Alumni website <http://mhsnpittsburghalumni.com> and our Facebook page at *Mercy Hospital School of Nursing Association*.

Please spread the good word and help us to increase membership!

Dorothy Kornosky Mayernik '67



## **Interested in becoming a Mercy Alumni Board Member?**

We are extending an invitation for you to sit in on a meeting and see what we do! New minds and new ideas will help sustain the Alumni Association and push for the continuation of the accomplishments we've made! We'd love to have you, new graduates or seasoned Veterans! Send us your information and we'll be in touch.



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

Like our Facebook page and group

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/>

## We would love to hear from you!

If you have news to share or suggestions, please let us know!

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### Alumni Association Dues Renewal 2020

Please detach and return with your dues/donation

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First	Maiden	Last	Class
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Address

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Email address

Phone number

**Please fill in the information below for the alumni you are gifting  
a free 1 year membership to:**

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First	Maiden	Last	Class
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Address

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Email address

Phone number

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\$20 membership \_\_\_\_\_ Donation to: MHSN Alumni Assoc. \_\_\_\_\_ MSNH \_\_\_\_\_

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

MHSN Alumni Association  
PO Box 53123  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219