



Mercy Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Newsletter Spring 2023

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT



Corie Greece Schultheis

Dear Alumni,

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your President over the last several years! It has been an honor to work with an amazing team on the Executive Board, and to get to know some of you. All good things must come to an end, and my time has come to hand over the reins. I look forward to continuing to serve as an active member of the alumni association. I leave you in excellent hands, please allow me to introduce you to your new President of the Mercy Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association, Marian Bindas.



Marian Kowatch Bindas

My name is Marian Kowatch Bindas, and I am from the Class of 1985. In my eyes, compassion, trust, selflessness, perseverance, and intelligence are all key qualities of being a nurse. A trade I love to call my life's work.

Right after graduation, I was hired as a nurse in the Coronary Care Unit at Mercy and given the opportunity to be mentored by a wonderful group of nurses. I also was lucky enough to meet my husband, Jim, as he worked in

radiology and moved into the cardiac catheterization lab. We raised our daughters at Mercy, as they all went to daycare (CDC). I can still see them running down the halls excited to go to school or playing in the playground by the School of Nursing. After 20 years, I left Mercy to work at Highmark as a Case Manager, where I spent 10 years focusing on care of the elderly within skilled nursing facilities and then transitioned into a role focused on care coordination/ STAR measures within primary care offices. However, I missed direct patient care and decided to become a Nurse Practitioner to provide care of the elderly. At 45 years old, I returned to school to complete my BSN at Waynesburg University and my MSN at Walden University specializing as an Adult Geriatric Nurse Practitioner. I started practicing in Primary Care with Campbell and Philbin Medical Associates. This opportunity was perfect because I was back at Mercy and working with quality-skilled physicians and staff. Yet, to find a better work-life balance, I moved to my current position at Optum HouseCalls, where I have flexibility to care for the senior population as well as the underserved patients in their homes across the State of Pennsylvania and babysit our granddaughter, Hadley, who just turned 3. Outside of my work, I enjoy cooking, traveling, and spending time with family and friends. My nursing heart belongs to Mercy, which is why I want to be a part of this Board and continue our mission of supporting our students and our alumni.

Sincerely,

Corie Greece Schultheis, 2007

Marian Kowatch Bindas, 1985

A NOTE FROM YOUR ALUMNI BOARD

We're sure that you've all been wondering, "When is the Alumni Newsletter ever coming out?"

Well, a lot of things have been going on this past year in our professional and personal lives, and we all just got a bit swamped.

However, the Board has stuck together with online meetings, following up on ideas for future in person gatherings, and keeping a file on all of your wonderful updates in response to our emails and Facebook posts.

At last, here's the newsletter.

Best Wishes and Happy Reading!

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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FROM THE DESK OF SISTER CAROLYN



In March of 2020, the Mercy Hospital School of Nursing (MHSN) Alumni Association donated \$15,000 toward the upgrading of rooms, in the UPMC Mercy Health Center referred to as the McAuley Inn, a place for families or patients, who needed housing during hospital care.

Recently UPMC obtained a former hotel type building that will house families for all Pittsburgh hospitals as needed.

The McAuley Inn will no longer be needed. The new facility, located at 5308 Liberty Avenue, will offer comfort, hospitality, and transportation at affordable rates.

Administrators of UPMC Mercy decided to return the \$15,000 to the Alumni Association since these rooms will serve other purposes yet to be decided.

Gratitude has been expressed to the MHSN Alumni Association for its spirit of making families more comfortable through the donation.

Sister Carolyn Schallenberger, RSM

UPMC Mercy Hospital School of Nursing UPDATE

Hello Alumni Friends!

Our school of nursing is striving and thriving. Our most recent NCLEX pass rate was 83%. The national NCLEX pass rate is 79% as everyone is still feeling the effects of the COVID restrictions on nursing education. 100% of our graduates have jobs at graduation, with approximately 70% staying within the UPMC System.

Our school is growing and expanding. We have expanded onto 11 Ermire, and we have created more classroom space and faculty offices. We will also be adding a second admission class each year starting in May 2023. Our school will now admit each May and September. We are expecting 90 students in May and are planning for 160 new students in the Fall. All of these efforts are in response to the ongoing nursing shortage. We are also blessed to be able to bring back the Tuition Loan Forgiveness program to assist our students financially with their education.

Last year we had over 60 graduates from our program. We are proud to say that we continue to educate and graduate nurses in the rich traditions of UPMC Mercy School of Nursing.

Angela Balistreri '96
Director, School of Nursing

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 for at least two years, 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

Email: buraczewskim@upmc.edu
Good Luck!

CONNECT WITH US!

Mercy Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Pittsburgh
www.mhsnpittsburghalumni.com

Email: mercyalums@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/people/Mercy-Hospital-School-of-Nursing-Alumni-Association/100063573370678/>

Angels of Allegheny

Angels of Allegheny was founded in 2008 by Marcia Ferrera, a nurse from Pittsburgh, as a testimonial for a nurse friend who passed away unexpectedly. Marcia saw that her friend was being memorialized as a wonderful wife, mother, friend, etc...but not one word was said about her love of being a nurse and caring for patients, a core part of who she was.



Marcia set out to change that by forming an organization comprised of active and retired nurses who provide a tribute at the funeral home or memorial service. They honor the legacy of nursing by wearing white uniforms, a universal cap, capes, carry a Florence Nightingale lantern, recite prayers, and carry the organization flag—white flag with a large red cross. The end of the ceremony is marked with the official retirement of the nurse's license.

Angels of Allegheny currently has 41 members, and last year conducted 22 ceremonies. If you are interested in joining, contact Debby Lesniak 412-341-8859.

Angels of Allegheny

The Angels of Allegheny offer personalized memorial services to honor nurses who have passed for their uncommon valor and loving care.

Debby Lesniak 412-341-8859

Mercy Angels 11/1/21 to 12/31/22

Mary Agnes Huber Spellman	06/12/16	1945
Alina Wolski Check	07/20/21	1948
Vera Ivanac Harkness	02/07/22	1950
Jean Bacher Bell	04/21/21	1950
Rosemary Rooney Hazel	05/05/21	1950
Mildred Fencak Fedor	12/25/21	1951
Joan Kelly DeRosa	01/09/22	1951
Joanne Schillinger Schaub	12/26/21	1952
Joanne Dougherty Hanrahan	11/13/22	1954
Kathleen W. Sughrue Becker	12/20/20	1955
Virginia C. Donahue	02/23/23	1955
Frances Konieczny Schneider	02/28/22	1957
Florence L. Tian	05/22/22	1957
Carol A. Saccamano	04/28/22	1958
Mary Frances Bauman	11/27/21	1960
Carole Komara Arendas	09/06/21	1960
Virginia Bable Madine	01/21/20	1963
Rose Golden Terrill	03/16	1963
Marjorie McCall Stright	03/24/22	1969
Rita Plovock Petrus	12/05/21	1972
Deborah A. Sefchek King	08/12/22	1975
Renee Venturella	02/10/22	1985
Courtney N. Belcher	07/24/22	2021

If you hear sad news of a classmate passing away, please let us know so we can send a card of condolence to the family.



Email: mercyalums@gmail.com

ALUMNI NEWS & MEMORIES:



I graduated from MHSN in 2018 and obtained my prehospital credentialing to use my RN in an ambulance setting. I currently work in EMS, Jeannette EMS and Penn Township Ambulance Service. I also obtained instructor credentials and currently am the instructor for ACLS and PALS through Westmoreland County Community College and am the Training Center Coordinator for Jeannette EMS. Attached is a photo from our last clinical of our second to last semester with our clinical instructor. Thanks!

David A. Howard PHRN

■ Hello Guys, **Nick Antonelli RN 2018**, I now work at Presby in the Trauma/Surgical ICU. Thanks, Nick

■ Good morning! After working bedside in Mercy's MICU for two years, I left to join The Center for Organ Recovery and Education as an Organ Procurement Coordinator in 2021.

**Hilary Bender, RN, OPC,
Class of (December) 2018**

■ Worked at Mercy 8E Oncology after graduating in 2012 for 2.5 yrs, then went to Jefferson 4NE Oncology for 4.5yrs and now am a Hospice RNCM with Anova Hospice for the past 2.5yrs. Thanks,
Clayton Soffel, Class of 2012

■ I remember making great friends and all of us going to Florida between year one and two. Andrea Young Pitschman's parents lived in Florida, found us a wonderful (cheap) place in Clearwater Beach, lent us a RV and were so very kind to us! We had a great time!

**Diane Becker Battaglia, RN
CDCES CPT, Class of 1979**
Diabetes Education at Mercy Hospital

■ Hi! I received your email! Figured I'd give an update - I'm **Dana Charvella, BSN, CRRN** - graduated in Dec. 2018. Currently working in Phoenix, AZ as a RN Field Case Manager for Paradigm (Workers comp) and recently got my rehab certification last December.

WE WANT
TO HEAR
FROM YOU!



Search your closets, albums, wherever you have your old pictures and memories!

Submit what you find to:
Mercyalums@gmail.com

We will add them to the newsletter, Facebook and/or the web site. Please remember to add names and graduation years - some of us have changed over the years!

We wonder which class will have the most pictures posted each month!?

■ Hello, I am currently working full time as an assistant professor at California University of Pennsylvania and casual as an Advanced Clinical Education Specialist at UPMC Passavant. I am also President-elect for the American Nursing Informatics Association. My favorite memories are of my clinical group. We all became very close as we were all in it together. We worked hard and also played hard on our time off after studying. We would walk over to Duquesne. We had to wear a skirt when we were leaving the building, so we would wear shorts underneath and then toss our skirts in the bushes until we came back.

**Kathleen Corcoran Morouse
Class of 1980**

■ **Brendan Tepe RN**, here. **Class of 2019**. Just finished an ER travel contract at UPMC Hamot in Erie Pa. Finishing my BSN this semester, and

ALUMNI NEWS & MEMORIES CONTINUED

then start FNP school in May. It's been a rough time for emergency departments everywhere.

Take care! Respectfully, Brendan Tepe

■ Hello! I'm **Kourtney Paczkowski, RN** and I graduated from Mercy SON in **December 2019**. I'm currently working in the family birth center at St. Clair hospital. I am trained in labor and delivery, mom/baby, level II nursery, as well as an OR scrub nurse! I'm also working casually at the new AHN Wexford hospital in mom/baby. I'm working on obtaining my BSN and MSN through one program at Cal U.

■ **Mary Catherine Crooks Greisinger Class of 1963.** BSN, MHSA
Retired as Case Manager/ Patient Care Coordinator from Allegheny General Hospital

■ Hello! I was in the last three year class, graduating summer, 1968. I have had a great career over the last 54 years. For many years I worked full time and went to school full time after becoming an RN. I first began my teaching career at Broward Community College, in Hollywood, Fla. I was 27 years old! After the very first class, I found my career passion. Fast forward, I eventually earned a BSN, MN, and PhD. I have had the pleasure teaching at several universities, including Duke University. I retired after thirty plus years as the Associate Dean of the Undergraduate Program at the College of Nursing at Mercer University, Atlanta, Georgia. For the last few years, I sub for school nurses in my community several days a month. I love it! I do credit MHSN with my clinical skills and confidence. Oh, yes...I also have been married for 42 years, have two amazing children, and am an over-vehement -top grandmother to three adorable grandchildren. God has blessed me in so many ways.

JoEllen Dattilo, 1968



Here we are right before graduation. Class of '95. Married in '98. Steve Michaux-Smith is now working as a CRNA and I work in Vascular Radiology. We enjoy living in Eastern NC. Hope everyone is well.

Diana Tabacheck Michaux-Smith 1995

■ Hello all, I'm a Mercy grad from the **Class of 2020**. My current speciality lies in Public Health! I work for AMI Expeditionary Healthcare on a COVID-19 quality improvement project in long-term care facilities across Pennsylvania. The aim of that project is to provide emergency response to facilities experiencing a COVID-19 outbreak and promote resiliency for facilities recovering from any previous outbreaks

My current credentials include:

- Bachelor of Science, Community Health Education
- Registered Nurse
- Certified Health Education Specialist
- ACE Certified Health Coach

I'm still based in Pittsburgh and loving my work as a nurse. Thanks for keeping up with alumni!

Yours in health,

Carolyn Pandolfo, BS, RN, CHES, ACE-CHC

■ **Margaret Shandor Miles, Class of 58**
I retired 7 years ago as professor in the School of Nursing at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

I worked as a staff nurse, pediatric CNS, professor and researcher.

In 2013 I was named a Living Legend by the American Academy of Nursing. Loved my career as a nurse.

I'm living in a continuing care retirement community. My husband died in 2011 but I enjoy having my daughter and 3 beautiful granddaughters nearby. I enjoy my sweet dog, Maggie, who keeps me company.

I keep very busy but sometimes I wonder what I am so busy doing. One thing is sorting through my accumulation of memories. Before I recycle them, I enjoy writing memoir essays. I do enjoy the swimming pool here, taking walks, and visiting residents in the nursing home and assisted living here. I'm in love with basketball, especially UNC men and women's BB.

I keep up my friendship with my roomie, Jeannie Secosky Steiner and with my friend Carolyn "Doo" Ryall Baierlein's daughter Heidi who is my Godchild.

■ My Mercy Years were tough, fun and life changing-wouldn't change anything about them! My career spanned multiple hospitals, home care, and LTC in Pgh. in supervisory/managerial roles. I retired to raise my family, retired again, but was lured back and currently am an advocate for elderly. I have 3 children and 3 grandchildren-with promises of more!

Mary Ann Curley McDonough 1975

■ Couldn't afford a ring when I graduated in 1981. Contacted Jostens around 2009 and was able to order one! So glad I finally got it and wear it with pride!

Carol Millich-Lescalette 1981

ALUMNI NEWS & MEMORIES CONTINUED

■ I'm from the class of 2013! I'm currently working as a midwife at Jefferson Hospital and as an adjunct clinical instructor at CCAC. **Aubrey Rose 2013**

■ I graduated from Mercy in 1977. I worked as an RN for 16 years then went back to school to be a Women's Health CRNP. I worked as a CRNP for 28 years. I retired March 5, 2021 and am enjoying grandchildren and traveling. **Cathy Chelan Piper RNC, CRNP**

■ Graduated in 1986! Open heart nurse specialist on the coast in California. **Gaelle Kelly**

■ Thanks to MHSN and my mother who would not let me quit, I had a rewarding 50 years in med-surg, endo unit, teaching, hospice, and community settings. In between, I earned my BSN & MSN. I retired from my best job ever, as manager of Mercy's Parish Nurse and Health Ministry Program, which was started in 1992 by my classmate Maria Boario. I still volunteer at Mercy PNP doing training for parish nurses across the U.S. who use the computer documentation software we developed. In my own church I coordinate Bethany Ministry, an outreach to parishioners who are homebound or recovering from illness or surgery. I've been married to Dave for 55 years and have 3 children and 3 grandchildren. I treasure my Mercy BFFs and the "glory days" of white uniforms, Clinic shoes, and caps starched at the Chinese laundry on Marion Street!

Dorothy Kornosky Mayernik
Class of 1967

■ **Al Minjock Class of 1985**
Current job. Vice President of Clinical Services, Critical Care Edwards Lifesciences, Irvine CA
MS nursing 1991
MBA 1993
PhD 2007

From the bulletin of St Anthony of Padua Catholic Parish in Novato, Calif.

Elaine Capko Couch, Class of 1950

"Helping Hands" is the ministry that oversees social events that are held in the parish hall. If you need anything to do with the hall, Elaine Couch is the one to see.

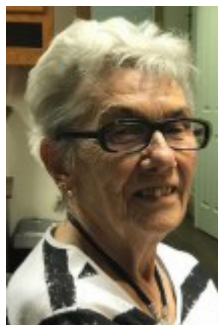
Tables set for 100? How about linen tablecloths? Flower arrangements?

Coffee? Caterer? She will make sure that the tables are not only strategically placed, but decorated with white linen tablecloths (Elaine washes them after), and some flowers in small vases placed here and there to bring warmth to an otherwise oversized room. No matter the hour, when the event is over, Elaine is there to make sure the hall and kitchen are left clean, while she personally strips the tablecloths, loads them onto a cart and heads out to get them into the washing machine. Elaine will never leave her post until the last piece of garbage is thrown away, the lights are off and all doors locked. But Elaine learned her strict routine from training to be a nurse. For three years she worked during the day at Mercy Hospital School of Nursing in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and went to school at night. Sometimes they switched it up where she attended class during the day and worked nights. When she was just 21 years old, after only three years of schooling, she graduated. It was 1950.

After two years of working as a nurse, Elaine got bored so she and two of her nursing friends decided to join the Air Force. All three of them were stationed together in Rapid City, South Dakota. Their first night reporting for duty, snow was piled up to the second story windows. They had to hitch a ride with a tractor to get to work, which was across the street. Little did Elaine know she had already acquired a secret admirer – Joe Couch.



Elaine flew into Rapid City, a newly licensed nurse and single. Two years later she flew out married and looking for new adventures in Austin Texas.



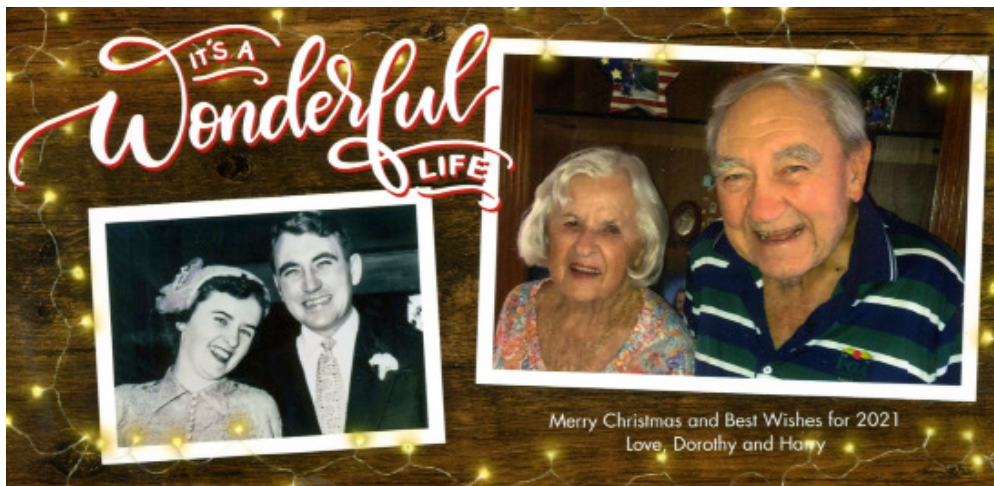
Three of her new adventures stuck with her for life: Michael, Mark and Patte. When the kids were old enough, Brackenridge County hospital literally came calling. Her interview consisted of a quick phone call with "Can you start work tonight?" Elaine was off and running working in Labor and Delivery for six years. Nurses did things a little differently back in the 60s. For instance, if a pregnant woman came into the hospital, they didn't go through the Admittance department; they went through Elaine. She admitted the patient with handwritten paperwork, put an ID bracelet on her, notified the doctor, stuck around until delivery, making sure everyone was okay. If the father fainted, which happened a lot, it was Elaine who checked him out, revived him and then went back to helping deliver the baby. It was Elaine and the doctor, until the baby was born. Everyone was then wheeled to their rooms: mom to her room and baby to the nursery. Elaine stayed to clean up. Yes, clean up; as in the entire delivery room, sterilizing and washing the utensils, right up to mopping the floors. All this for \$6.75/8-hour day; \$7.25/8-hour night and their shifts were 6-nights with no overtime.

Joe was transferred one more time, to Novato, California, in 1968 and here Elaine has stayed. She had one more tour to do though, and this time it was Marin General Labor and Delivery, starting in August 1968 through November 1993. When she retired, she was given the "golden handshake," which means that they added five years to her pension and five years to her age. They don't do "golden handshakes" anymore, but if anyone earned the last golden handshake, it was Elaine.



Elaine was involved with almost every ministry St. Anthony had to offer, but lately Helping Hands seems to be just enough. She enjoys playing mahjonnig though. Just don't mess with the kitchen in the hall. Elaine seems to know when someone has left a plate out, or garbage still in the can, or stale food just sitting around. And then Elaine's training kicks in and things get put back onto place. Pronto.

ALUMNI NEWS & MEMORIES CONTINUED



Dorothy Hart Isabel Class of 1950

Harry and I will be married for 70 years on 9/7/2021. Both, originally from Uniontown, are the parents of 4 daughters, one a nurse, 9 grandchildren, two are nurses, and three great grandchildren. They reside in Boynton Beach, Florida independently, under the care of their four rotating daughters. As Jimmy Stewart said “it’s been a wonderful life”.

■ To my Mercy Hospital School of Nursing family, Remembering my years at Mercy fondly – so Blessed with the skills I have learned along the way! Thank you and God Bless you all. I will always cherish you in my heart! Please stay healthy, safe, and Covid free.

Love and Hugs,
Marlene Hudak King, Class of ‘81

■ Where I am now - **Joanne Griffin Lowrie Class of 1957.**

Worked at Mercy pediatrics for a while, then to Allegheny County visiting nurses. Had the lower Hill, which was very interesting. Then to Weirton Steel in the dispensaries. Had to swing shifts there. Later got married and moved to Pgh. Started at J & L Steel and worked prn. Continued there until I had my second child. Stayed home with three children. Went to Slippery Rock University, got a BSN, went to Pitt for my MSN as a Family Nurse Practitioner. Worked at Western Psych as a medical person for quite a while then moved to Eye and Ear working up patients for surgery. A merger occurred and we became UPMC. Worked at Same Day Surgery in both Montefiore and Presby. I did start taking classes for a PhD in nursing but life interrupted that. Family problems in Steubenville and in Fombell. My mother and her brother developed cancer and my husband also. It was mesothelioma and sadly he passed. I had to retire to take him to chemo. Now I still am retired, living at home in Fombell. Have two cats but they are outdoor cats, born outdoors and live outdoors. My daughter is a Mercy grad living in Florida. She had three babies, two boys and one girl who is in the Coast Guard, now living in San Diego. She does helicopter maintenance.



Class of 1962 celebrates 100-year anniversary at the Vista Hotel in Pittsburgh in May 1993.

TOP: Graduation Night 1973

Theresa Brown Krzmien, Ann Finch Lytle, Debbie Bretholle Benguelt, Christine Arison Constantine, and Katie Elsesser Kleinkort

BOTTOM: 2013

Debbie, Katie, Christine, Theresa, and Ann



ALUMNI NEWS & MEMORIES CONTINUED

■ Hello from Lisa Levin Young, MSN, APRN-CNP, Class of 2010

I just wanted to send in my part for the spring newsletter.

I work as a Nurse Practitioner with Cleveland Clinic in the Interventional Radiology department and have been doing so since 2016.

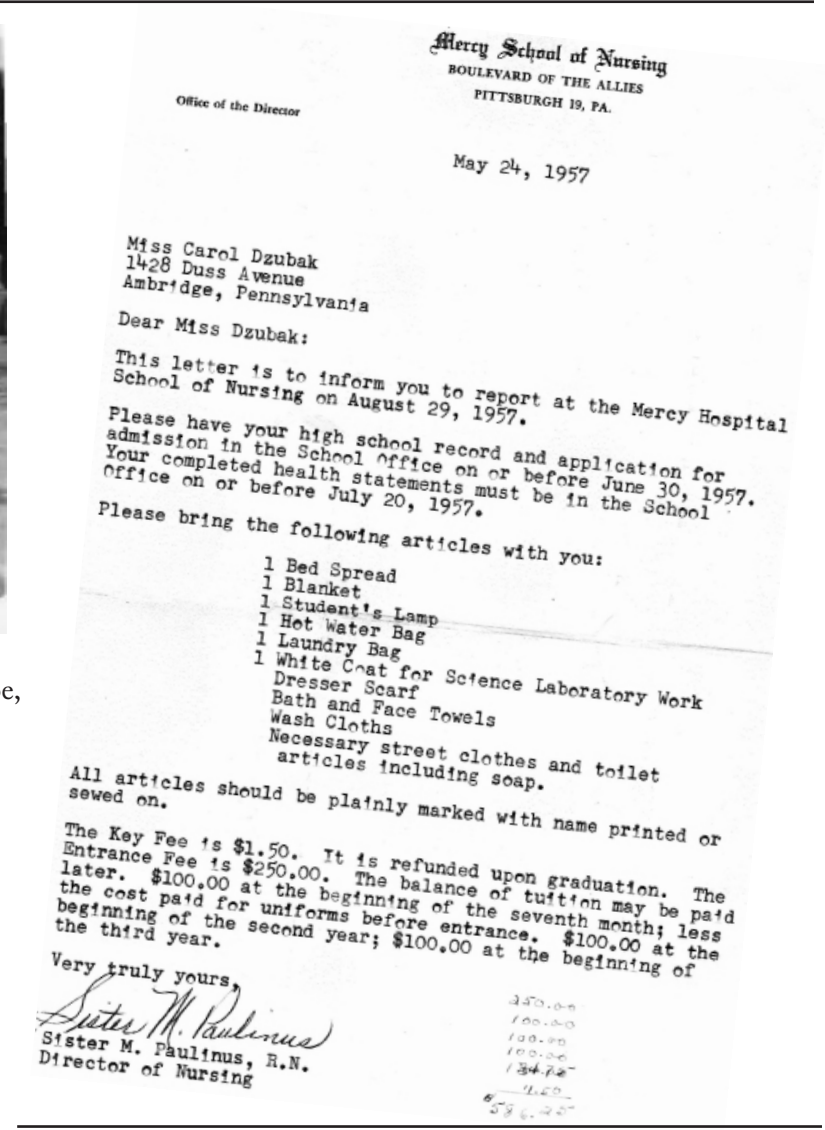
Just some photos of us after our last final before graduating. We had an amazing class!



Class of 1959 Diane Fisher, Claire Selter, Barbara Macey, Elaine Morgan, Mary Louise Monroe, Myra Mayer and Marlene Franchek



Class of 1962 Christmas Ball at the William Penn Ballroom. The Sisters invited young men from Westinghouse to escort the student nurses. Nurses are: Kathy Sossion, Carol Zanardelli Kuzumko, Mary Jane Vogt Charitan, Doris Shale and Joan Vintle Brown.



HONORING MILITARY VETERANS

Kudos to **Deborah Ehland Pesanka '89** — What a wonderful Veteran's Tribute you created!

We received a lot of fan mail after our last issue, "Honoring Mercy Hospital School of Nursing Veterans." Indeed, it was a wonderful tribute and a much deserved recognition for their service to our country. Thank you again, to our military veterans. You do us proud.

After the issue came out, we received a few more letters from alumni veterans to share with you.

■ November 19th, 2021

Attention: MHSN Alumni Association:

Thank you for continuing to send me your newsletters. I have lost contact for some years now with any of the nurses in my graduating **Class of June 1947**. Many of my class friends passed away many years ago. I don't know if there are any survivors except myself.

I entered the MHSN as a US Nurse Cadet Corp recruit two weeks after graduating from Donora, PA High School with my friend and classmate Elizabeth Goodhue Kane.

After graduation I returned to Donora where my parents were living. I was notified in November 1947, I had passed my boards. There were no local commutable hospitals nearby, so I moved to Columbus, Ohio where I began my nursing career at Grant Hospital in downtown Columbus. I was immediately hired to work in surgery. I became a scrub nurse for some of the noted surgeons in their specialty surgery.

I met and married my husband, Terence J. Rooney in Columbus.

We have ten children (four sons and six daughters). I have been a widow since 1994 and still live in the old family home bought in the very early 1900s by his family in the suburb of Clintonville, Ohio.

I remained in the nursing profession until 1974. I always scheduled my working hours around my children's schedules. (Childcare was unreliable.) I worked for Rockwell and managed a nursing station in pediatrics for



*Rosalie Zalar Chuberko
U.S. Nurse Corp*

a very short time. I finished my nursing career working in obstetrics at St John's in Tulsa, Oklahoma and at Riverside Hospital in Columbus (within walking distant to my home). I left nursing in 1974 and entered Capital Law School in Columbus and became a certified paralegal. I was hired by The Public Utilities of Ohio in the Transportation Dept. I completely retired in 1992.

After I retired, I traveled mostly to Europe with my airline benefits. (My daughter has been a flight attendant with American Airlines for 35 years). When my youngest son was interning for Merck while receiving his Master's in the French tract from the University of South Carolina, I spent a lot of time then traveling in France, Germany, Spain and Ireland. Later to other destinations in America, since my children lived from the East Coast to West Coast. The majority of my life to this day was devoted to my large family.

Sincerely,

Marguerite A. Gonzales Rooney '47

■ **Rosalie Zalar Chuberko, Class of 1959** writes:

Dear Alumni Newsletter Staff,
Thank you for the military recognitions. What a beautiful tribute! I would like to include the following to your list who were recruited by Maj. Joseph Weimer, MD, a Mercy physician who was a Flight Surgeon in the 147th Aero Medical Transport Squadron stationed at Greater Pitt Airport in the 1960s: **2nd Lt. Mary Frances Bauman '60; 2nd Lt. Sheila Scanlon '60; 1st Lt. Mary Grace Sweeney Stafford '56; and myself, 1st Lt. Rosalie Zalar Chuberko '59**

We were in a Reserve Unit, part of the U.S. Air Force and attended monthly drills following initial officer training, then were sent to Brooks Air Force Base in San An-



tonio, Texas where we received our Flight Nurse Wings. Each year all members of the unit were assigned to 2 weeks active duty. My active duty was at Travis Air Force Base in California where I flew with regular Air Force Nurses receiving the injured soldiers from Vietnam, transferring them to Air Force Bases and hospitals along the Pacific coast. In 1963 I was assigned as Assistant Chief Nurse of

HONORING MILITARY VETERANS CONTINUED

the 147th AMTS which became the 171st Air Transport Wing, My experience was very fulfilling, and I treasure the memories and friendships from those years. I resigned my commission in 1964 when I was married and was placed in the Inactive Reserves of USAF until 1966.

In addition, **Capt. Mary Ann Wuchina Waterman '59** entered the U.S. Air Force. She served in Vietnam, eventually retiring and living in California. She passed away a few years ago and became a Mercy Angel. Her classmates are very proud of her and thank her, in our prayers, for her service.

A picture in my youthful days was taken at the Alamo in San Antonio, Texas, 1963.

■ Classmates in the **Class of 1950** joined the U.S. Air Force Nurse Corp at the same time and were sent to South Dakota together.

Elaine Capko Couch
Helen Bearer Hahn
Margaret Schlosser Ryan

Date served: 1952-1954

Location of service: Rapid City Air Force Base, Rapid City, South Dakota. After completing service, Elaine moved to Texas; Helen to Nevada; and Peggy to New York.



■ Hello from **Jo Ann Grunick, Class of 1963**. My friend Barbara Yonker, my classmate from Mercy, teamed up with me and we entered the Air Force in 1964 as "buddies." Neither of us had ever left Pittsburgh before, so it was a big undertaking to travel to Maxwell Air Base in Montgomery, Alabama for basic training, and then on to Carswell Air Base in Ft. Worth, Texas. Barbara worked in maternity, and I did general duty on a med-surg unit. Our training at Mercy served us well. We both got the courage to stay on awhile longer to do more. Barb entered midwifery school and was given recognition at retirement, now a Lt. Colonel, for having delivered over 1,000 babies in her 20-year career of service. I went to Japan and served in the 20th Casualty Staging Unit which triaged Vietnam casualties out to either military units in Japan if too ill to make the flight stateside or on to the States for additional care. I returned home after Japan and served as a reservist for some additional years.

Yes, our Mercy training did serve us well.

Barbara Yonker '63 is now deceased as of January 2021. May this faithful servant rest in peace.

■ **Carol Black Tinnel, RN, MHSA - Class of 1966**

Last nursing position: Coordinator, SICU, Doctors Hospital, CCRN for 6 years. Primary cases: CABG, AAA, carotid artery

U.S. Army Nurse Corps:

1967, 2nd Lt.: Trained in military & combat zone nursing at Fort Sam, Houston, San Antonio. Assigned to U.S. Army Hospital, Fort Gordon.

Primary cases: Traumatic amputees.

1968-1969, 1st Lt.: Asst. Coordinator, 93rd Evac Hospital, Long Binh, RVN. Primary cases: traumatic amputees & multiple gun shot wounds, fractures, frag wounds.

Coordinator, ICU, Bellevue Hospital: Asked to start an ICU for complex cases upon return from Vietnam.

Married to Ronald for 54 years. Ron held the rank of Captain, Army Signal Corps in Vietnam. I had to salute him & walk on his left side because he outranked me (1st Lieutenant). 3 children, 4 grandchildren.

My education @ MHSN definitely prepared me for nursing in a war zone.

We tried our best to include all the updates that we received...but if we omitted yours because it got lost in the shuffle, our sincere apologies...please resubmit for the next newsletter.

LAST, BUT NOT LEAST...

CLASS OF 1973
UPCOMING 50TH REUNION

Contact: Theresa Brown Krezemien

TheresaKrezemien@gmail.com

UPMC Introduces Tuition Loan Forgiveness Program for Nursing Students

■ UPMC is launching a new program to make it more affordable for student nurses to complete their education and join the workforce. The UPMC Schools of Nursing Tuition Loan Forgiveness program will help alleviate financial barriers for students pursuing a nursing career. Starting January 2023, students who enroll and successfully complete their first semester at one of UPMC’s six Schools of Nursing locations and continue to meet academic requirements can receive up to \$7,000 per semester in tuition loan forgiveness for all remaining semesters, with three-year work commitment at UPMC following graduation.

“The UPMC Schools of Nursing allow future nurses to learn alongside the best of the best, and this program will help remove some of the financial obstacles future nurses face,” says Maribeth McLaughlin, chief nurse executive, UPMC.

UPMC is committed to helping develop the next generation of nurses

by investing in programs like Tuition Loan Forgiveness to support nursing students and make nursing education more accessible. With full-time, part-time, and extended program options available, UPMC Schools of Nursing offer flexible programs for students seeking employment – and UPMC is proud to offer flexible work schedules to accommodate students’ nursing education.

With six hospital-based nursing schools that combine clinical experiences with exceptional academics, UPMC Schools of Nursing has campuses throughout Pennsylvania at UPMC Hamot, UPMC Harrisburg, UPMC Jameson, UPMC Mercy, UPMC St. Margaret, and UPMC Shadyside. UPMC Schools of Nursing allow students to earn their nursing diploma in as little as 16 months, at a total cost that is less than the average cost of one year of college tuition. Graduates who work at a UPMC facility also can receive tuition reimbursement if they choose to

pursue a BSN in the future. UPMC Schools of nursing also participate in grant and loan programs for students with financial need, and all campuses have full accreditation and approval from the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing.

In addition to the UPMC Schools of Nursing Tuition Loan Forgiveness program, UPMC is also investing in all new nurses with a \$10,000 graduate nurse sign-on bonus (with a two-year work commitment) and a \$20,000 Monthly Loan Repayment program for all 2023 nursing grads working in inpatient/procedural, surgical services, and ED units – regardless of where they attended nursing school.

Students interested in enrolling in UPMC Schools of Nursing for the upcoming academic year should apply to any of the UPMC’s six campuses by June 1, 2023 to begin classes in fall 2023. Learn more and submit your interest at UPMC.com/nursing-school.

Alumni Association Dues Renewal 2023

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 Association** _____

Include photos and notes with your Mercy Memories and Updates!
Please make checks payable to MHSN Alumni Association and mail to:
MHSN ALumni, P.O. Box 53123, Pittsburgh, PA 15219
mercyalums@gmail.com

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