



Mercy Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Newsletter Spring 2026

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Alumni Friends,

Have you ever pondered the factors that led you to pursue a career in nursing? Was it the profound sense of aiding those in need, or perhaps an inspiring portrayal you witnessed on television?

If television was the catalyst, which show captured your attention? Perhaps it was *Emergency*, *MASH*, or *Grey's Anatomy*? I am genuinely curious to know if anyone has been inspired by the recent hit, *The Pitt*. I must admit, I am an avid fan, and as you are aware, I am not particularly fond of horror-themed shows. Typically, I would be unable to sleep if something frightening were to be broadcast, but I can watch *The Pitt* and fall asleep instantly! It is perhaps comparable to discussing unpleasant medical topics at a meal and only nurses or other medical professionals can continue eating as if nothing has happened. Do you share this sentiment? I also appreciate *The Pitt* due to the picturesque scenery of Pittsburgh.

What better way to celebrate the arrival of warmer weather than to attend our Spring Fling? We will be hosting a tea party event featuring a fashion show showcasing attire from an exceptional upscale boutique shop located in Pleasant Hills. Kindly bring a guest such as a close friend, or even better, a fellow Mercy colleague who is not a member of the alumni to join us in celebrating and sharing in some enjoyable activities.

As we transition into spring, let's not overlook the significance of Florence Nightingale's birthday, which falls on May 12, 1820. This day is commemorated as International Nurses Day.

In an effort to promote sustainability within our alumni community, we are implementing a reduction in the frequency of our publications. The next edition will be distributed via postcard notification, accompanied by a QR code that will direct you to our Fall newsletter on our website: mhsnpittsburghalumni.com. Also, go to the website for this Spring issue containing additional pages of updates and photos.

Please share your cherished memories and updates so that we may publish and disseminate the events and developments in your lives. The memories of the past endure through each of us, and we all possess unique stories to share.

Wishing you a prosperous and fulfilling spring.

Warmest Regards,

Marian Kowatch Bindas '85

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TEA PARTY AND SPRING FASHION SHOW

Saturday, April 11, 2026 ■ UPMC Mercy Hospital

11 A.M. Mass in the Chapel ■ 12 Noon Luncheon in Clark Auditorium

Chicken, Egg, & Tuna Salad Sandwiches ■ Lettuce and Fruit Salads

Cupcakes and Cookies ■ Coffee, Tea, Soft Drinks

Fashions by The Buttonhole Women's Consignment Shop

Bring a friend, relative, classmate, or colleague

RSVP by April 1 ■ Mail in form on Page 4 ■ Email: mercyalums@gmail.com

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF SERVICE POSTED BY UPMC JANUARY 30, 2026

After arriving at Mercy Hospital in 1953 to study nursing, Sister Carolyn Schallenberger began her lifelong service of caring for others by becoming a nurse and committing herself to religious life. She has gone on to hold a variety of roles across nursing, education, and administration, and continues to bless UPMC Mercy with her incomparable wisdom, endearing humor, and profound humility.

To celebrate more than 60 years of service, a dedication ceremony was held in her honor. Colleagues from across the organization gathered for the unveiling of a plaque and photograph recognizing the lasting impact she has had on generations of coworkers and patients. Congratulations, Sister Carolyn on this extraordinary milestone!



UPMC MERCY SCHOOL OF NURSING UPDATE

Hello Alumni Friends!

We are excited to announce the UPMC Mercy School of Nursing is growing again. We are opening a branch campus at UPMC Altoona this fall. We are thrilled to bring the tradition of our school to the Altoona area to help to grow and develop the nursing workforce in Blair county. You may not be aware, but UPMC Altoona was originally named Mercy Altoona Hospital, so it was only fitting that we partnered with them to open a nursing program.

I would also like to take a moment to congratulate Corie Greece Schultheis who has been promoted to the Director of the UPMC Shadyside School of Nursing. Corie is a 2007 graduate of the program who has been working for the past several years as a faculty and then Associate Director at the UPMC Schools of Nursing. We are excited for her and are certain UPMC Shadyside School of Nursing will flourish under her leadership.

I wish you a great summer and hope we have lots of sunshine!

Angela Balistrieri '96

Director, UPMC Mercy School of Nursing

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR PROMOTIONS!



■ **Corie Greece Schultheis**, MSN, RN, CNE, Class of 2007, was named as Director, UPMC Shadyside School of Nursing, Pittsburgh, PA.



■ **Mark Lengvarsky**, MSN, RN, TCRN, Class of 2010, was named Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) for Lehigh Valley Hospital-Cedar Crest.

See page 3 for more!

Mercy Angels

Dolores McKevitt	10/24/25 1950
Mary Ellen Hoffman Kolling	08/11/25 1955
Joan Pawlak Cover	07/09/25 1957
Elaine Maher Falce	12/12/25 1957
Marianna Christina Collier Greenaway	10/12/25 1959
Lois A. Smyth Semplice	12/18/25 1966
Patricia D. Dulkis Simon	12/16/25 1968
Nancy Sieawski Hearst	12/10/25 1975
Jean Steinmeyer Aspinall	03/05/25 1978

Please notify us if you hear that a Mercy alum has passed away. We've always relied on the Pittsburgh newspapers, which may not be available in the future.

Email: mercyalums@gmail.com

ALUMNI ACCOMPLISHMENTS

MHSN Alumni Association proudly shares news of the accomplishments of our Mercy grads:

Corie Greece Schultheis, MSN, RN, CNE, Class of 2007, was recently named as Director, UPMC Shadyside School of Nursing, Pittsburgh, PA

Following graduation from Mercy Hospital School of Nursing in 2007, Corie began studies at Carlow University, earning a BSN and then MSN in Nursing Education and Leadership by 2012. During these years, she worked as a staff nurse at The Children's Institute of Pittsburgh, Excella Health, and then at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh.

In 2013, Corie started her career in Nursing Education, first as an instructor of Pediatric and Medical Surgical Nursing at UPMC Mercy. In 2015 she joined the UPMC Shadyside School of Nursing team where she continued to

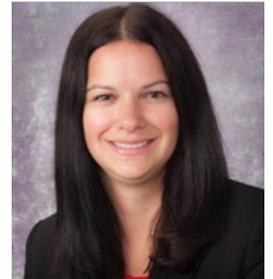
teach in the pediatric and medical surgical nursing courses.

In 2021, she was promoted to a newly created position: Manager of Student Engagement and Success, UPMC Schools of Nursing. In 2023, Corie was appointed Assistant Director, UPMC Shadyside School of Nursing, followed by her recent promotion to Director.

Corie has served for many years on the board of the MHSN Alumni Association, including 5 years as our president. Corie and husband Adam keep busy at home with young son Carson's activities.

Clearly a dedicated healthcare leader, she brings a passion for advancing nursing education, fostering clinical excellence, and shaping the next generation of compassionate, skilled professionals. Corie is quick to acknowledge, "I'm proud of the education that

I received at Mercy Hospital School of Nursing! I'm especially thankful to Angela Balistrieri, who has been a constant source of support, first as my nursing instructor and throughout my nursing career. I'm very grateful that Angela hired me into my first instructor position and for the guidance and encouragement she continues to provide for me."



While taking on the added responsibilities as Director, Corie will be taking a break from serving on the Alumni Board. But she promises to be back one day!

Mark Lengvarsky, MSN, RN, TCRN, Class of 2010, was appointed Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) for Lehigh Valley Hospital-Cedar Crest, Allentown, PA. Following graduation from Mercy in 2010, Mark earned a BSN from Waynesburg University and an MSN from California University of PA. Mark is currently pursuing a Doctor of Nursing Practice in Executive Leadership at Thomas Jefferson University.

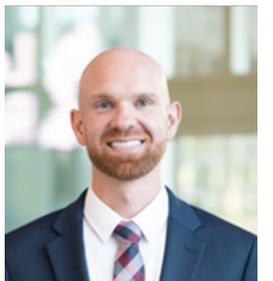
The announcement of Mark's promotion was made by Senior Vice President/CNO Christine Hartner, DNP, MBA, RN, NE-BC, HN-BC.

Hartner described Mark as "a transformational health care leader known for inspiring teams, elevating patient

care quality, and strengthening organizational culture. His career reflects a deep commitment to creating environments where care teams thrive and patients receive exceptional, safe and compassionate care."

The official announcement continued, "For the past six years, Mark has served as Administrator of Patient Care Services at LVH-Cedar Crest, where he has co-led major initiatives that advanced colleague engagement, patient outcomes and system-wide performance. He led a team of 12 directors and supported more than 700 colleagues across high-acuity and specialty service lines, including the Regional Burn Center, Level 1 Trauma Center, emergency services, neuroscience, open heart ICU,

respiratory care and more. Mark's leadership has driven measurable, lasting impact across the organization. In addition, he is an active contributor to the profession through board service, community engagement, and national presentations on quality, safety, and nursing practice."



Congratulations Corie and Mark on your well-deserved achievements! MHSN Alumni Assn. wishes you the best of luck in your new leadership roles!

ALUMNI NEWS & MEMORIES

Margaret (Marge) Shandor Miles, Class of 1958

I remember the exciting clinical rotation to an infectious disease hospital in Washington, DC. It was so exciting to live in the nation's capital. The patients had advanced tuberculosis. My assigned patient was very sick and died under my care. That was difficult but a growth experience. Over my career as a nurse, I learned to be comfortable caring for dying patients, including children. I learned that it was a very special spiritual experience to be with the dying and their families.

Nola McCool McGillicuddy, Class of 1960

"These are pictures from the class of 1960. Mary Ag (McCuen) Pschirer took these and sent them to me. I think they are the 50-year reunion in 2010. I was not able to attend. Mary Ag passed in 2012, and I know she would be happy if you used some of them in your newsletter. One picture is from 1993, and it is labeled. The Dorm picture is from the 1950s."



LEFT-RIGHT

CAROL KOMARA, MARY ANN KUZYSK, CAROL GORDON,
BARB METRO, ? JULIE KOZBELT, ME, MIMI
BAUMANN, ? SYLVIA FREEMAN, KATHY AUGUSTINE,
MARGIE BALFE, ? CHARLOTTE BOWSER, GRETCHEN
?, SHEILA BONAR, ALICE PEIDLE, PRISCILLA NERO
(HIDDEN)
(HIDDEN)
DEAN,

ALUMNI NEWS & MEMORIES CONTINUED



Charlotte Bowser Natili, Gretchen Dean Johnson, Sheila Bonar Sullivan



Mary Andrea "Andy" Kossler and Donna Knapp



Priscilla Nero Morton & Husband, and Maxine Wellner Wiley



Sylvia Freeman Garlitz, Kay Donahue, and Mimi Bauman

ALUMNI NEWS & MEMORIES CONTINUED



May 1, 1993

Back row -

*Barb Metro, Rachel Connell, Mimi,
Carol Mychal, Marisa Elmore*

Front row -

*Kay Kathie, Charlette Bowser,
Sylvia Freeman, Me*

ALUMNI NEWS & MEMORIES CONTINUED



1958, 59 or 60?
Mercy Hospital
School of nursing
Ⓐ→Ⓡ front row Mimi Baumann,
Mariane Elbaine, Kay Donahue,
Back row - Gretchen Dean, Marykane
Rawlinson, Kay Guthrie
foreground Sheila Bonar

*A lovely trip down Memory Lane
Thank you so much Nola, for sharing these photos with us*

**Class of '75 ■ 50th Reunion ■ Mass in Mercy Hospital Chapel with Fr. John Oesterle
Luncheon in Clark Auditorium ■ Memories and laughs! ■ It was like we had a short break, not 50 years!**



Front Row: Fran Filotei Paci, Michelle Chornak Crawford, Ellie Matro Yearsley, Sr. Carolyn, Ellen Pasarell ('73), Colleen Barr Bogovich, Paula Bertocchi Howes, Diane Noll Scott, Judy Kallaugher Duncan, Joanie Nunes Jagers **Back Row:** Debbie Lindsey Evers, Eve Rodzinsky Medich, Mary Murawski Keib, Mary Ann Curley McDonough, Joan Andrulonis Deangelis, Ron Brockett.

WE CLOSE THIS ISSUE WITH A LETTER FROM AN ALUMNA...WRITTEN FROM THE HEART

My name is Miriam Ashoff Nolf, and I am proud and honored to be a 1986 Mercy Hospital School of Nursing Alumni. Two words come to my mind being a part of such an awesome class of Nurses: "Blessed and Grateful!" The knowledge and confidence our awesome instructors breathed into each of us made us who we are today. So appreciative for the commitment and dedication of many of our instructors: Mrs. Sperry, Mrs. Carlson, Ms. Gongaware, Sr. Jerry, Sr. Jean, etc.... not to mention the love and kindness shared by the front desk "Mothers" who guarded our dorms. Beyond graduation day, a bond was shared between class members. A bond with My Mercy Hospital School of Nursing Classmates with a special seal! My journey after Nursing School started on the Orthopedic/ Urology floor at Mercy Hospital from 1986 to 1989. VA Hospital 1989 to 1991. Magee Women's Hospital 1991 to 2004, and lastly relocated to St. Petersburg, Fl in 2004 and have been working at HCA St. Petersburg General Hospital since. Currently running a Pretest Dept. I have 3 beautiful daughters and 4 grandchildren. I have enjoyed being a nurse. The most rewarding job! I am so grateful for how our instructors equipped me with the knowledge and confidence needed to help me in my nursing career. No, not every patient's story had a happy ending; but at the end of the day, being a great listener and providing Spiritual support made my job complete. I would like to share my inner circle of special MHSN 1986 Alumni: Michele Buraczewski, Susan Vereb, Buffy Fedutes, Kristy Logue, Pamela King, and Lisa Moore. During height of Covid, when everyone was worried about getting Covid, I had just started back to work after having 3 heart procedures including insertion of pacemaker. I was at work, Charge Nurse in Preop Surgical Endo Dept. at St. Petersburg General Hospital when I received a text message from my oldest daughter, Kayla, saying she needs my help. No one could ever prepare me for the Nurse I needed to be, when I learned from my daughter that her oldest daughter, Elliot Rose, my oldest granddaughter, was diagnosed with a brain stem brain tumor, DIPG. Needless to say, I got on a plane and stayed by my granddaughter's side until she became one of God's Angels 4/10/21. Elliot Rose was only 8. My Mercy Hospital Sisters were my heroes, giving me love and support to fuel my Spirit. The Spirit needed to continue to provide Works of Mercy for more patients in my path. I am so Blessed to be from such an awesome class of Mercy Hospital School of Nursing! Thank you, God, for placing all these beautiful people in my life!!! **Miriam Ashoff Nolf miriamnolf@gmail.com**

Blessings to all our Mercy Alumni ■ Please stay in touch! ■ Email: mercyalums@gmail.com

