Alums in the Spotlight

We love spotlighting our alums for their accomplishments, but many do not receive the recognition they deserve because we just don’t know about them. Thanks to those alums who took the time to submit information about their classmates and friends!

Methodist’s 2013 Nurse Excellence Award Winners were announced in May. Nominees must exemplify day-to-day demonstration of the core values: patient focus; honor and respect; excellence and teamwork; and service to community. They must demonstrate the characteristics of a 5-Star Nurse. The following alums received this award: Lee Bollock ’10; Jodi Croatt ’12; Penny Fink ’12; Kylee Frederick ’11; Jan Janisch-Hanzlik ’11; Tammy Johnson ’12; Cindy Sorensen ’92; and Kathie Wolfert ’76. They were nominated by their peers and selected by the Professional Development Council members.

The Visiting Nurse Association honored Elizabeth Anderson ’74 with the 2013 Mary Longmaid Offutt Award. This recognition is based on peer nomination and interviews, with the recipient chosen by a committee of VNA board members and past recipients. Elizabeth is a VNA clinical liaison and primarily works with patients from the Nebraska Medical Center who require home health care services after they are discharged. In addition, she is a volunteer at the Stephens Center, the Omaha Community Playhouse, and is active in her church and the Omaha Sports Club.

Becky Crafton ’09 was honored as the April Methodist Hospital Employee of the Month. She has been a Methodist Hospital employee for more than ten years and is currently an Ortho/Neuro Nurse Coordinator. Team members say Becky is a great pleasure to work with and she embodies the core values of integrity, excellence, learning, compassion, teamwork and respect in everything she does.

Antonia ‘Toni’ Hughes ’74 lives in Edgewater, Maryland, with her husband, Richard. She is employed at Baltimore Washington Medical Center. Toni serves her professional nursing organization, AORN, as chair of the Recommended Practices Advisory Board. This multidisciplinary board assists with development of practice recommendations for the perioperative nursing community.

Two alums have joined NMC’s nursing faculty. Melissa Hulbert ’02 will teach in the community and mental health course and Michelle Leinin ’98 in the high risk client/intensive care course. Melissa has been working as an adjunct faculty for NMC and comes from a teaching position at Kaplan University. Michelle comes to NMC as an intensive care nurse in the Alegent system and as an adjunct faculty for College of St. Mary.
Trista Koch '07 was awarded Certified Professional Coach through the Institute for Professional Excellence in Coaching. A graduate of our Respiratory Care Program, she founded Trista Koch Coaching in 2011, where her mission is to support, encourage, and coach adults with terminally ill parents to connect to hope, peace, and family. Trista continues her pursuit of Mastery Coaching studying under Aurora Winter at the Grief Coach Academy. Receive Trista’s free gift of Aurora Winter’s book, *Grief Relief in 30 Minutes*, at www.griefcoachacademy.com/Trista. Learn more about her practice at www.TristaKoch.com.

Marla Kniewel EdD, MSN ’05, ’BSN ’93, RN received her Doctor of Education from College of St. Mary in December 2012. She was awarded the Outstanding Dissertation Award of the Year. Marla is the daughter of Jean Beyer ’58. She is pictured wearing her Mom’s doctoral cap at her graduation. A member of our nursing faculty, Marla wears the cap for NMC commencements as well.

To date, Michael Paulsen ’79 and Kay Paulsen ’77 have fostered 197 children over 23½ years. They write that the longest a child was in their care was for 22 months. Michael and Kay have cared for several sets of twins and triplets as well as a number of “two-at-a-time but unrelated” children. Due to their nursing background, a large number were medical placements. Michael said, “They receive more calls for medical than healthy kids.”

Kerri Petersen ’99 has joined the NMC Board of Directors as the Alumni representative to replace Dr. Janice Kuhn ’89. Kerri received her MS in Health Promotion and serves as the Executive Director for Live Well Omaha (formerly known as Our Healthy Community Partnership) and the Project Director for their Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities project.

Nancy Kathleen Roberts ’67 retired after 37 years with Providence Health and Services. She served as the Director of the Emergency Services Department for fifteen years, developed and coordinated the trauma program, developed and established a rural health clinic and a General Surgery clinic, which she managed for several years, and served as property manager and tenant liaison for physicians. Most recently, Nancy served as Director of Physician services. Upon her retirement, the Nancy K. Roberts Nursing Award was created and will be presented annually during Nurses’ Week to an outstanding nurse who lives the Providence Mission and core values, demonstrates nursing excellence in professional leadership clinical practice, volunteerism and advancement of the Providence experience. Nancy has been married to her husband, Roger, for 44 years, has two adult children and 2 grandchildren, and lives in Southern Oregon.

In June, Jen Roth ’11 was recognized as the Methodist Women’s Hospital Employee of the Quarter. An RN on the GYN Unit, she was nominated by a supervisor who described Jen as “a provider of excellent nursing care at the bedside, showing passion in what she does for our patients every day.” Jen is a BSN graduate from our Accelerated Nursing Program.

Cathi Sampson ’09, a Master’s in Health Promotion Management alum, is the assistant program director at Keep Fremont Beautiful. She was hired in mid-April and, among other things, has been focused on litter and recycling education and outreach. Although she has experience in the private sector, Cathi’s passion lies in working with non-profit, service-based and volunteer organizations. Her focus is on wellness, including environmental wellness.
CLASS NOTES

Go to www.methodistcollege.edu/alumni-and-community/alumni-relations/update-your-info to submit your news, change of address, etc.

1960s
Musfeldt, Diane (Hirsch) ’69 – and her husband, Greg, reside in Keller, Texas. Diane is employed by American Airlines.

1970s
Hawkins, Mary Jane (Livengood) ’78 – was married to John in 1991. Along with their two sons, Shawn (18) and Brian (17), they live in Elkhorn, Nebraska. Mary Jane earned a BSN in 1987 from Clarkson College of Nursing and obtained certification in pediatric nursing in 2010. She is currently employed as a Nurse Case Manager for the HEROES program, the medical weight management program for Children’s Hospital & Medical Center.

1980s
Decker, Karen K (Pahl) ’85 – writes, “My husband, Bradley, and daughter, Maggie, and I moved to Huron, South Dakota, in 2011, to be closer to family. I worked as a charge nurse at the Sunquest Health Care Center for a year. While enjoying the skilled nursing facility, I longed to return to my first love of home care/hospice, having worked in this area for over 20 years while in Omaha. I joined the Huron Regional Medical Center Home Care and Hospice nursing staff in September of 2012, and in January 2013, became the new Hospice Bereavement and Volunteer Coordinator. Having a Masters’ Degree in Counseling and being board certified in Psych/Mental Health Nursing, this position is the ‘best of both worlds.’ It is giving me the opportunity to excel in both nursing and in working with families during their time of bereavement.

1990s
Stang, Laura (Botkin) ’94 – writes, “After staying home with my young children, then working part-time for Millard Public Schools, I completed the RN refresher course and got my license renewed. I am so excited to be re-joining my nursing career after 10 years! I have accepted an RN position with Midwest Allergy and Asthma Clinic and am looking forward to a fresh start in nursing!” Married to Steve, the family resides in Omaha.

2000s
Palacios, Valarie (Harrison) ’05 – writes, “I have been picked up for long term health education and training by the Army. They will send me to University next fall to obtain my Master’s in Clinical Nurse Informatics. It’s a very competitive program and a big honor to be selected.”

Wehrly, Michelle (Bailey) ’06 – and her husband, Aaron, reside in Gretna, Nebraska. She is an RN, BSN for Alegent Health.

Renner, Miranda ’07 & ’12 – received her Associate’s Degree in Sonography followed by her BS in Healthcare Administration: Applied Clinical Operations. She resides in Denver, Colorado, and is employed at the Rose Medical Center and Porter Adventist Hospital.

Christensen, Holly (Nice) ’09 – is a graduate of our ACE Accelerated BSN program. She married Tyrel on April 10, 2010. Carly Alexandria was born on January 4, 2011, followed by Cadence Kay on December 20, 2012. Holly is employed at Methodist Hospital.

Hansen, Heather (Matulka) ’10 – married Trent April 28, 2012. They reside in Blair, Nebraska, where they bought their first home in November 2012. A graduate of our BSN program, Heather is an RN at Methodist Women’s Hospital.

Kopecky, Amy ’10 – is a BSN graduate. She resides in Lincoln where she is employed by Be Yourself, a fashion boutique.

Thompson, Lori ’10 – writes, “I recently accepted a position as Director of Education with the Kansas Health Care Association. I coordinate educational events with KHCA, which is geared toward those working in assisted living and nursing home facilities. My health promotion management Master’s degree helped me obtain this position!” Lori lives in Topeka, Kansas.

Schrader, Brittni ’12 – and her husband, Rocky, reside in Lincoln, Nebraska. A BSN grad, she is employed at St. Elizabeth Hospital.
The 2013 – 2014 academic terms are going to be another fantastic year at NMC and I am very grateful for the continued support of the Alumni Association. As the cost of higher education continues to rise across the country, I am pleased to report that we were able to keep the tuition increase for this year to only two percent, the lowest increase in several years. We were also able to leave housing rates unchanged for this year. Keeping our costs to students as low as possible is very important, but we also need to do all we can to raise money for student scholarships. The NMC Board of Directors is making great progress on the fundraising for their first ever Board Scholarship. To date, nearly half of the board has responded with over $125,000 directed to the Board Scholarship with the promise of more to come. We need your help too, and would ask that you consider a gift to NMC to support our greatest need, ‘Student Scholarships.’ Each scholarship goes a long way toward ensuring that our students are going to be able to fund their education, earn their degree and join you as proud alumni and outstanding health care professionals. I thank you for your support on behalf of the students who will benefit from your generous gifts to the scholarship campaign!

**ALUMNI BENEFIT!**

Did you know Nebraska Methodist College Professional Development now offers a 75% discount off the list price for most continuing education offerings they provide? Use the promo code NMCALUM2013 to receive this discount on all eligible programs (BLS/ALS not included).

For questions, please contact NMC Professional Development at (402) 354-7100 or PD@methodistcollege.edu.

**New Resource Available for Alumni**

We recognize that many of our alumni wish to continue to use John Moritz Library (JML) services and resources following graduation. While we do not provide alumni off-campus access to licensed electronic resources, all alumni are welcome to use the library’s print and online resources on campus.

The Alumni Resources LibGuide found at http://libguides.methodistcollege.edu/alumni describes JML services that are offered to NMC alumni and suggests other options that might be available through one’s employer. The guide also provides organized links to free but authoritative databases, e-journals, e-books, drug information, statistics and data sets, evidence-based practice resources, and patient education materials.

**In Loving Memory**

*The Alumni Association makes a $25 donation to the Methodist Hospital Foundation in memory of each deceased alum. Please notify Tina Knauss by phone at (402) 354-7261 or e-mail at Tina.Knauss@methodistcollege.edu. You may also send obituary notices to her at Nebraska Methodist College – The Josie Harper Campus, 720 North 87th Street, Omaha, NE 68114.*

N eva (Sharp) C anfield ’44  M ildred (H arse Scott D eitz) M arkham ’44
L etha (N elson) N oehren ’51  V iolet Shelbourn R ipley ’52
M arianne (D err) B enton ’54  L eola Schaefersman ’56
G loria (N ielsen) A nderson ’57  J oanne (M ucha) S herrets ’70
April Alumni Area Visits

April was the month to travel for Alumni gatherings. Denise Carlson ’93, Director of Alumni Relations, journeyed to California for a dinner and luncheon with alums from the Oceanside Area. Upon her return, she and other Omaha alums made the annual “road trip” to Minnesota. Along with some major “retail therapy,” everyone enjoyed meeting for dinner with Minneapolis area alumni.

The beautiful bay offered a perfect background for alums who met for lunch at the Monterey Bay Canners restaurant. Pictured from left: Denise Carlson ’93, Adaline Jurek ’49, Carol Grice ’53, Dee Wylie ’53, Marjorie Bock ’63, and Janet Greenfield ’62.

Karen Jackson ’76, Mary Lou Iverson ’66, Danielle Brazzle ’10, Denise Carlson ’93, Rose Brown ’77, Jini Washburn ’61, Kris Hess ’06 Honorary, Melissa Hoffman, NMC Dean of Students, and Katie Wulf ’07 enjoyed time together at Bubba Gump Shrimp Company.

Be Part of the Excitement

The bustle of Nebraska Methodist College students getting ready to head back to class for the Fall semester has begun. It’s an exciting time as they register for classes, purchase text books, and reunite with their classmates.

Here at Methodist Hospital Foundation it is also an exciting time. In partnership with Nebraska Methodist College, we continue to raise funds for students through Investing in Excellence - a fundraising initiative to raise $36 million for the scholarship program. Scholarship support allows students to realize their dreams.

The thrill and gratitude these students feel when they receive a scholarship is priceless. We receive many notes of appreciation from scholarship recipients. Here is just one example: “When I was in 8th grade my dad suffered a heart attack, and after that I knew I wanted to help people. Thank you for believing in me and supporting me in my journey.”

You are a key part of the continued success of Nebraska Methodist College and its students. Thank you for your dedication and loyalty to your college. The difference you make in each student’s life will affect every life touched by these future healthcare professionals.

Please contact the Foundation at 402-354-4825 or visit MethodistHospitalFoundation.org for more information about how you can be part of the excitement. You can also email Foundation@nmhs.org for more information about Investing in Excellence.
2013 Alumni Reunion

Yes, social media is a wonderful way to keep in touch with classmates and alumni friends. However, as Reunion attendees will attest, you cannot give a hug through a computer! The morning of May 31st began with the free educational offering, Medical Missions: Caring and Learning. Keitha Thompson ’70, Kathy Garvey ’84 and daughter, Kylie Garvey ’11, Melissa Bell ’06 and Devin Holdorf ’11 shared inspirational stories of their mission experiences. Meanwhile, the Class of ’63 gathered in the College cafeteria for their 50-Year Breakfast.

As always, the Silent Auction was a popular feature along with fabulous raffle drawing prizes. Open throughout the day, many took advantage of the “buy it now” option rather than miss out on an auction item.

The day concluded with the Reunion Dinner held in the Ballroom of the “old campus.” Casual attire and great food from Texas Roadhouse made for a relaxed and comfortable evening.

2013 Service Award Recipient
Danielle Brazzle ’10

Danielle Brazzle received her Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Care in 2010 and immediately became actively involved in the Alumni Association. Always willing to volunteer for events, she truly goes above and beyond in her commitment to our organization. Danielle has served on the Advisory Council for the past two years and is currently the secretary. Her warm smile and contagious laugh is welcoming to alums and students alike. Danielle’s conscientious and reliable dedication is admirable and she serves as the ideal role model for what the Association aspires for all its members. For her tireless efforts, we were pleased to honor Danielle with our 2013 Service Award.

Methodist Friendships Are For Life

This summer, doctors discovered that LeeAnn (Tauanuu) Hansen ’11 had a congenital heart defect that had gone undetected. She was scheduled for open heart surgery in Rochester, Minnesota. When she told NMC friends, Danielle Brazzle ’10 and Kylie Garvey ’11, they simply told her they were coming to see her. LeeAnn wrote, “Sure enough post-op day #2 they showed up with tons of animal print and pig gifts…two of my favorite things! We packed so much into the day and a half they were there. I had my first shower with Kylie’s help and Danielle was with me when I developed a pneumothorax and had to have an emergency chest tube. Nebraska Methodist College has the BEST alumni . . . I don’t recommend open heart surgery unless you have a personal RN and RT!”

All proceeds from the Silent Auction, Raffles, and Golf Tournament were directed to our Alumni Spirit of Caring Scholarships!
This Is Not Goodbye . . .

As I write this, I am experiencing such mixed emotions because I have resigned my position as your Director of Alumni Relations. I leave this position – a position I love dearly – to begin a new chapter in my life. I have accepted a position with Nebraska Organ Recovery as a Family Support Coordinator. In this role, I will provide bereavement support to potential donor families. I believe this is the path I am to take and that I will truly Make a Difference to these individuals at a most difficult time in their lives.

It truly has been an honor and privilege to serve as your Alumni Director and I will always cherish the eleven years we have spent together. Little did I know that I would be blessed with so many lifelong friendships. I am able to leave this role because I am convinced that I am not leaving you, my friends, just the job. We will see each other at Alumni meetings, events, and reunions and I will, no doubt, see some of you in hospital settings when I come to support families.

We will always share a connection as Methodist Alums. Please keep in touch at my email address: denise.carlson@cox.net and on facebook.

Until we see each other again, please take care.

Denise

Alumni Referrals

As Alumni you are so important to our recruitment process at NMC. Thank you for sharing our positive experiences with students interested in nursing and healthcare programs. Based on your referrals for our upcoming fall semester, 14 students expressed interest in Nebraska Methodist College. Nine of our alumni are also returning to further their education this fall.

NMC Admissions is available to help get you or someone you know started with their educational goals. Our academic programs include Nursing, Nursing Online, Allied Health and Health Professions. Be sure to check out the educational opportunities at NMC. www.methodistcollege.edu.

New Year Alumni Renewal

It seems the holiday season becomes more hectic every year; and even early in December, we are busy with shopping and baking. Realizing this, the annual “Christmas Party” has been moved to January. Please join us on Saturday, January 11, 2014, from 9:30 – 11:30 for complimentary pastries, fruit and coffee at the Garden Café, 11040 Oak Street, in Rockbrook Village. We have reserved the party room and casual attire is welcomed.

The Angel Tree is a valued alumni tradition and we will again forward all proceeds to benefit the Student Crisis Fund. If you are unable to attend or wish for your gift to be a 2013 charitable contribution, you may send your donation to Methodist Hospital Foundation, 8401 W. Dodge Road, Suite 225, Omaha, NE 68114 or online at www.methodisthospitalfoundation.org/donate/give-now. Remember to designate your gift for the Angel Tree.

To assure an accurate count, please register by calling Tina Knauss at 402-354-7261 or e-mail her at Tina.Knauss@methodistcollege.edu.

Let’s kick off the New Year together!
13th Annual Alumni Golf Tournament

The 13th Annual NMC Alumni Golf Tournament sponsored by Vintage Financial was a fun-filled day for our golfers including the tournament tradition of Blue Bunny Ice Cream treats, fantastic raffles, pin and team prizes. The majority of our participants are loyal players who return every year. Along with our generous sponsors, they are greatly appreciated! Again held at the beautiful Eagle Hills Course in Papillion, our faithful golfers promised to return in 2014.

Congratulations to Our Winning Teams:

**Women’s Team**
6 Under Par – 66

Jan Dixon ’63  
Judy Frillman  
Sue Meusey  
Joyce Whalley

**Men’s Team**
16 Under Par – 56

Brandon Eaves  
Steve Goltl  
Tim Schultz  
Howard Weitzman

**Mixed Team**
10 Under Par – 62

Ron Boner  
Sara Cordes  
Mac McKown  
Pam Nelson

![Winners](image1)  ![Winners](image2)  ![Winners](image3)

Save the date! Next Year’s Tourney: Friday, June 13, 2014