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! Share career highlights by contacting Denise Carlson, Director of Alumni Relations at (800) 793-3964, (402) 354-7256 or Denise.Carlson@methodistcollege.edu.

Danielle Brazzle ’10 was recognized as the 2012 Respiratory Therapist of the Year from Children’s Hospital and Medical Center. One of her nominators wrote, “Danielle is so good with our kids! She always comes into my patients’ rooms with a smile and her kind spirit is contagious. What a blessing she is to work with. We are so lucky to have her working with us!” This was the second year an alum received this award. Kahl Ladd ’09 was honored as the 2011 Respiratory Therapist of the Year.

Melanie Brouillette ’00, a sonographer in the Ultrasound Department at Methodist Hospital, was recognized as the November Methodist Hospital Employee of the Month. She is described as being knowledgeable, helpful, caring and respectful in all she does. Melanie has been an employee with Methodist Health System for more than eleven years.

Jayma Brown ’94, Wendell Lewis III ’06, Kelly Mackling ’98, Natalie Mandolfo ’95, and Marcie Peterson ’00 have been recognized as young nurse leader award winners at the Honoring Nurse Leadership: 40 under 40, sponsored by the Nebraska Action Coalition. The 40 under 40 Award celebrates young nurse leaders showing expertise in their field, adherence to high ethical standards, and leadership within their profession, organization, and community. These alums exceeded the standards requiring nomination and a weighted selection process, and were honored Thursday, September 13, at an Awards Reception at Bryan Health in Lincoln, NE.

Kelly (Epperson) Maresh ’85 writes that she received an “Administrative Appointment to Executive Director, Clinical Research Administration, Office of the Vice President of Clinical Research at University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center on August 6, 2012.” In addition she was “appointed to the American College of Cardiology 2013 Scientific Sessions Executive Planning Committee as 2013 Nurse Program Planner.”

Ashley Von Seggern ’09 was honored at a recognition ceremony on Thursday, August 16, as the August DAISY award winner at Methodist Hospital. She is an RN in the Progressive Care Unit. “This young lady is the best nurse I have ever encountered in 71 years,” said the nomination from the spouse of a patient who recently was under Ashley’s care. “You can tell that Ashley truly cares about her nursing profession and strives to provide the finest medical and emotional support for patient and family,” the nomination concluded. “I can think of no one more deserving of this prestigious award. She is truly extraordinary in the best sense of the word.”

The Shining Star Award from Bergen Mercy Medical Center was awarded in November 2012, to Lori Thomas ’10. The award, given quarterly, recognizes an employee for exemplary performance and compassion with patients. Lori graduated with her BSN and is a postpartum nurse at Bergen Mercy in Omaha.

Excellence in Nursing Award Nominees

The March of Dimes Nebraska Chapter Excellence in Nursing Awards Banquet was held November 1st. Nominees were recognized for making a difference every day with clinical excellence and compassionate patient care. Nominated alums included Jean Adair ’72, Katie Doty ’07, Pamela Grosse ’73, Kathleen Hirsch ’12, Helen Jackson ’81 & ’98, Sandy Kirchhoff ’94, Michelle Leahy ’01, Dani Michels ’06, Donna Myers ’79, Nancy Noda ’99, Jeff O’Hern ’08, Shelly Pruitt ’08, Shanda Ross ’01, and Brenda Wallingford.

Katie Doty ’07 received the Rising Star Award at the banquet. A previous employee, she was nominated by Children’s Hospital and Medical Center in Omaha. Katie now serves as a full-time nursing instructor at the College. Others from NMC also received awards – Dr. Meg Blair, nursing faculty, received the Excellence in Nursing Award; Dr. Jane Hawks, nursing faculty, received the highest honor, the Distinguished Nursing Award; and current student, Joey Anthone, received the Student Excellence in Nursing Award.
Go to www.methodistcollege.edu/alumni-and-community/alumni-relations/update-your-info to submit your news, change of address, etc. Or call Denise Carlson, Director of Alumni Relations, at 402-354-7256 or 800-793-3964 – she would love to hear from you!

Congratulations to Mandi Clauss '12 - our winner of this issue’s $50 gift card! Send in your Class Note update and be entered in the next drawing! The lucky recipient will be announced in the spring newsletter!

1940s - 1950s Where are you?

1960s
Warren, Jean (Christiansen) ’66 – has retired from nursing. She and her husband, Charles, live in North Bend, Nebraska.

1970s
Zeigler, Anne (Vrana) ’77 – and her husband, Michael, reside in Rochester, New York. She is an RN at University of Rochester Medical Center.

1980’s
Schultz, Debra (Mason) ’81 – writes, “After 31 years as a Registered Nurse, and working as a Director of Nursing Services twice, Director of Home Health, and Director of Human Resources and Staff Development, I am very content to work as a staff nurse at the Nemaha County Hospital in Auburn, Nebraska and go home each day to the farm in Rock Port, Missouri, that my wonderful husband, Ronald, and I have started with 30+ miniature horses and other animals. I very much enjoy my off time with him and the animals. I hope to start a miniature therapy horse program so I can brighten others’ day with these awesome little animals. The picture is of me and our little farm mascot, Dry Creek’s Smidgeon of Sunshine, aka Midgie. She is a 4-year old dwarf miniature horse. She loves attention and enjoys going to the nursing homes to visit.”

Maresh, Kelly (Epperson) ’85 – and her husband, Dennis, live in Katy, Texas. She completed her Master of Business Administration in August 2007, and is employed by the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. See Alums in the Spotlight for more on Kelly.

2000s
Connor, Lisa (Mommsen) ’00 – is a graduate of our previous Paramedic Program. She and husband, Michael, have a son, Evan, who is six years old. Lisa is employed by the City of Omaha Fire Department.

Huelbig, Anne (Ferando) ’01 – and her husband, Tom, reside in Branchville, New Jersey. Anne is an RN practicing in family pediatrics.

Boehme, John ’03 – and his wife, Lacie, live in Council Bluffs, Iowa. John is an RN at a rehabilitation facility.

Crowl, Lori ’03 – resides in Hauula, Hawaii. She is an RN at Kapiolani Medical Center for Women & Children.

Jenkins, Elizabeth (Gayer) ’05 – is an RN for the Health Group of McMinnville. She and husband, Chris, live in Manchester, Tennessee. Elizabeth has volunteered to mentor recent grads in her area.

Spies, Colleen (Pokorny) ’05 – graduated from our Multispecialty Sonography program and is married to Eric. She writes, “We recently welcomed our son, Micah Blaine, on June 10, 2012. He joins big sister Ava, 6. I just celebrated my 5 year anniversary with Alegent Health Women’s Healthcare at Lakeside Hospital.” They reside in Omaha.
Carnahan, Katherine “Katie” (Grace) ’10 writes, “Ryan ’10 and I just purchased our first home together. We moved into the Papillion area on September 29. We are both still currently working as RNs at Methodist Hospital and really enjoy it.”

Jensen, Kathryn “Katy” (Fort) ’10 – is an RN at Methodist Women’s Hospital. She and Nick were married in Omaha on July 21.

Medeiros, Erin ’10 – graduated from our Radiologic Technology program. She resides in Omaha and is employed by Marriott Global Reservation.

Shubert, Tanya (Hinrichsen) ’10 – and husband, Brent, welcomed Gavin James Shubert on May 2nd. Tanya is an RN at Falls City Community Medical Center.

Aylward, Carrie (Heiser) ’11 – was married to Paul this summer. They recently moved to Omaha. A graduate of our MS in Health Promotion Management Program, Carrie is employed by Dial Retirement Communities. She is interested in mentoring NMC students or new grads.

Behrens, Kora ’11 – is a graduate of our Accelerated BSN Program. She is an RN in the Emergency Department at Lakeside Hospital in Omaha.

Kreyling, Kelsey ’11 – and her husband, Peter, welcomed Margaret “Maggie” Ann Kreyling on October 7, 2012. She weighed 8 pounds, 13 ounces and was 21½ inches long. She joins big sister, Jane. The family resides in Mexico, Missouri. A graduate of our Masters in Health Promotion program, Kelsey is currently a homemaker.

Malesa, Carlie ’11 – is an RN at Methodist Women’s Hospital on Mother/Baby. She and husband, Josh, along with Emily and Elijah, look forward to welcoming a new baby in December. The family lives in Yutan, Nebraska.

Masat, Victoria (Cotner) ’11 – and her husband, Andrew, live in Omaha. A graduate of our Respiratory Care Program, she is a therapist at Methodist Hospital.

Bolamperti, Amy ’12 – is a graduate of our Accelerated BSN program. She resides in Omaha and is an RN at Methodist Hospital.

Butcher, Amanda ’12 – had a busy summer. She welcomed Kacie Renee, born on June 22, and received her Medical Assistant certificate in August. Kacie weighed in at 7 pounds, 3 ounces. Barb Butcher ’01 is the proud Grandma.

Clauss, Mandi ’12 – and her husband, Kristofer, live in Omaha. She is a critical care RN at Alegent Health, Mercy Hospital in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Kennedy, Colleen ’12 – graduated with her MSN as a Nurse Educator. She and her husband, Kevin, recently moved to Norfolk, Nebraska, where Colleen is employed by UNMC College of Nursing, Northern Division.

Krepel, Diana ’12 – is another BSN grad from our ACE program. She resides in Omaha and works full-time for the Nebraska Army National Guard on the Incentive Support Team.

Paxton, Audrey ’12 – recently moved to Norfolk, Nebraska, where she is an RN at Faith Regional Hospital.

Peterson, Kristin ’12 – and her husband, Dustin, now live in Elkhorn, Nebraska. She received her MSN as a Nurse Educator in May and is employed by Alegent Health.

Warren, Douglas “Doug” ’12 – is an RN in the Progressive Care Unit at Methodist Hospital. He and his wife, Jennifer, live in Omaha.
Send in Award Nominations

Do you know someone worthy of one of our prestigious annual awards – Horizon, Service or Honorary Alum? Nominations are currently being accepted with a deadline of February 18, 2013. Criteria for each award can be found at http://www.methodistcollege.edu/alumni-and-community/alumni-relations/awards.

Please include your name, address, phone number and e-mail address with your nomination. Mail to: Denise Carlson, Director of Alumni Relations, 720 N. 87th Street, Omaha, NE 68114 or e-mail your nomination letter to Denise.Carlson@methodistcollege.edu

Award recipients will be announced at the Alumni Reunion Dinner on May 31, 2013. Each will be honored with his/her award which is engraved to include the recipient’s name and year.

Awards pictured: Horizon (top); Honorary Alum (left); Service (right)

Our ACE Elite

The Accelerated Community-based Education Program (ACE) of Methodist College is recognized as being among the nation’s elite nursing programs. The hallmark of its success is the fact that 100% of the graduates over the past four years passed the NCLEX-RN exam on their first attempt. Our students strongly reflect the central values of the nursing profession and an intense desire to learn while our faculty delivers challenging learning opportunities based on the latest knowledge and information available. The culture within the ACE program reflects an enthusiastic partnership in learning between students and faculty amidst a spirit of trust, respect, and support. There is a shared focus that our efforts today will lead to tomorrow’s nurses providing the very highest quality of patient care that is indicative of the values, skills, knowledge, and compassion that are taught and engendered by the program’s leadership and faculty. We know the distinction of the ACE Program is realized when patients are cared for by some of the best prepared nurses our profession has to offer.

Susie Ward, Ph.D.
Honorary Alumna '00
Director, Special Programs
Nebraska Methodist College

Verlene (Butterfield) Laken ’37
Robin (Hood) Bartlett ’74 & ’90
Lea Ann (Barnhard) Wells ’76
Lawrence Beyer ’97 Honorary

E. Marjorie (Mull) Rogers ’43
Caryn (Ericson) Gekas ’75
Jeanne (Streiff) O’Hara ’87
Ann Fiala ’97
Greetings and happy holidays to you and your family. I hope you enjoy the season with family and friends. The 2012 – 2013 year is well underway and I remain in awe of the great work that our faculty and staff are engaged in as they work with our students to create the most meaningful learning opportunities possible.

For those of you who have been away from campus for a few years, I want to reassure you that the clinical education with a strong focus on patient care and high quality outcomes that you remember is still the norm at NMC. For years, I have made it a practice to attend clinical experiences with faculty as a means of staying in touch with the education that is taking place in the clinical setting. This fall, I have asked the vice presidents to join me in such clinical visits. The feedback from the vice presidents, the faculty and the students has been extremely positive. I value these opportunities as it provides me a first-hand experience of the difference that our students and faculty make in the lives of the patients that they interact with and care for – it is truly life changing!

For those of you who have the opportunity to interact with our students and faculty, I thank you! Thank you for taking the time to answer questions, to assist with a procedure, to decrease their anxiety, to provide a teaching moment and for serving as a positive resource to our students. These informal interactions and experiences play a significant role in the collective experiences our students receive. By you ‘paying it forward’ with our students makes a difference and our students will soon be joining you as a healthcare professional and will be able to do the same for students that they interact with – thank you.

Please remember that you are always welcome to stop by the campus when you are in the area. We would love to have the opportunity to give you a tour so you can see what’s new on campus and to reconnect with faculty and staff. Thank you for your continued support of Nebraska Methodist College. Your efforts and support are appreciated and you are making a difference!

If you ask people to define the word “crisis,” you would receive many different definitions. For Nebraska Methodist College students, personal crisis can mean the end of their dreams to make a difference in healthcare.

“Lisa” experienced her first crisis as a high school student when her father became seriously ill. As she watched her father slipping away, she took comfort from the care and personal attention his nurses gave to him. After her father passed, Lisa knew her career path had been chosen for her – she wanted to become a nurse.

Lisa’s path had been bumpy from the start. She worked part-time in addition to going to classes five days a week. Her income was barely enough to cover her basic expenses such as food, gas and rent, but she didn’t complain. She was working toward her dream and she felt blessed.

Lisa’s next crisis was a series of bad luck. Within one week her car broke down and her hours at work were reduced. She tried to keep up with her expenses, but she was unable to manage and the bill collectors started calling. Her only option was to quit school and work full-time to pay her overdue bills.

After confiding her problems to a faculty member, Lisa learned about the Student Crisis Fund at Nebraska Methodist College. This fund provides financial support for students in need and is only possible because of generous donor support. For many students, this fund is their turning point to pull themselves out of a crisis.

Lisa is back on track and looking forward to the future thanks to the Student Crisis Fund. Please consider supporting this important fund – just a few dollars can avert a crisis, and put students back where they belong … at Nebraska Methodist College.
The weather was perfect for the annual family event at Vala’s Pumpkin Patch held on October 2nd.

Jenny Hensley ’04 and her Mom-in-Law, Kathy Hensley ’07, are regular attendees at the annual Christmas Brunch.

Jenny Hensley ’04 and her Mom-in-Law, Kathy Hensley ’07, are regular attendees at the annual Christmas Brunch.

Mari Alice Christensen ’55 (left) shared in the “Class of ’56 conversation” with Virginia Graham and Ruth Stuft.

Annie Reilly ’07 & ’08 (back), Sharon Kauss ’56, Zoy Blair ’59, and Ruth Stuft ’56 greeted alums at the registration table.

(Left to right) Kelsey Claar ’09, Susie Ward ’00 Honorary, Sue Trigg ’71, Lin Hughes ’11 Honorary.

Maria Houston, Rose Brown, Cheryl Richards, and Vicki Vinton, all from the Class of ’77, reconnected and enjoyed meeting Mary Stolzer ’61 (at left), during the complimentary catered brunch.
HEROES US

No matter what your discipline, you are a superhero to those you care for! Come celebrate at the 2013 Reunion Dinner on Friday, May 31st!

Due to positive feedback, we will return to the “old campus” at 8511 Dodge Street and again welcome casual dress.

Mark your calendars now and watch for more details in the spring issue of The Methodist Alumni Connection.

Silent Auction is for a GREAT Cause!

Want to make a difference in the lives of our current students? Why not contact your classmates to put together a Class Basket as did the Class of ’87! Of course, individual donations are always welcome. Let’s challenge ourselves to beat the record proceeds from the 2012 Silent Auction! Your donation is 100% tax deductible and all profits support our Alumni Spirit of Caring Scholarships.

SAVE THE DATE!

For the 2013 Alumni Golf Tourney

We will return to the always popular Eagle Hills Course with an early tee time to accommodate those who may have CWS tickets. Remember, if you are not a golfer, your family and friends may play in the tournament! All proceeds from the golf tourney benefit our Alumni Spirit of Caring Scholarships.

Newsflash!

New and exciting revisions are underway for our Alumni website! One popular feature will be your ability to find fellow alums. We, of course, have great respect for your privacy. You will be required to “opt in” to be included in the available searches. Watch for more information to come.
As Alumni, you are so important to our recruitment process at NMC. For the upcoming spring 2013 semester, 26 leads are from Alumni Referrals and six of these leads are accepted and preparing to start in January. Thank you for sharing our positive experiences with students interested in nursing and healthcare programs!

NMC Admissions is available to help get you started for an advanced online degree. Our online programs offer start dates throughout the year. Check out our new Master of Science in Healthcare Operations Management. Learn more at www.methodistcollege.edu or contact an Online Enrollment Advisor at 402-354-7203.

**Attention Minneapolis Area Alums!**

We are coming your way this spring! Call alums you know in the area and encourage them to join you in attending the complimentary dinner on Wednesday, April 17, 2013. Location is to be determined. Invitations will be mailed to alums within a 50-mile radius of the Twin Cities. If you live further away and wish to be included, please contact Denise Carlson at denise.carlson@methodistcollege.edu. Watch for your invite and mark your calendars now for an evening of re-connecting!