



The Methodist Alumni Connection

Summer 2011

Come See Our New Alumni Center!

Open House
Tuesday, September 20th
4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
515 North 87th Street

We've moved! In April, the Jean Schmidt Beyer Alumni Center was relocated to a larger space in a freestanding building just a half block south of the Nebraska Methodist College - Josie Harper main campus to the east side of 87th Street.



Please join us for a wine and cheese open house and see all our new facility has to offer – including our own private patio! We hope this time frame will work for you either prior to going to work – (we will also have cake and non-alcoholic punch!) – or after your shift. Dress is casual and scrubs are welcome!

★ Kindly reply to Denise Carlson at Denise.Carlson@methodistcollege.edu or 402-354-7256 as counts are needed for the food and beverages. See you there!



On June 23rd, members of the Class of '56 gathered at the new Alumni Center for a class luncheon. Contact Denise to discuss ways you might utilize the new facility!

Congratulations to our Alumni Spirit of Caring Scholarship Recipients

The second recipients of our alumni scholarships were selected in February. After reviewing all applications and interviewing finalists, the Awards Committee, chaired by **Zoy Blair '59**, awarded \$5,000 scholarships to Brenda Rouse and Matt Weber. Both Brenda and Matt will graduate with their Associate Degrees in May 2012. Brenda will receive hers as a Multispecialty Diagnostic Medical Sonographer and Matt his as a Physical Therapist Assistant.

Our soon-to-be fellow alums were recognized at the Reunion Dinner. As you can see by their quotes, we have made a difference in their lives.



"I was truly honored to receive a scholarship from the NMC Alumni Association. Not only has the scholarship eased some of my financial burden, but it's given me a renewed confidence in myself in a very challenging program. I am deeply appreciative of the financial gift as well as the support and vote of confidence I've received from the Alumni Association."



"Winning the Alumni Spirit of Caring Scholarship was an incredible and humbling honor. It allowed me to ease the financial burdens on my family as I attended school and therefore allowed me to fully concentrate on my scholastic studies. Perhaps most importantly, it instilled a deep appreciation and gratitude to NMC and its Alums that I plan to repay by becoming the best representative of an NMC education."

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

Five alums were recipients of Methodist's 2011 Nurse Excellence Award. Over seventy nurses were nominated by their peers and the winners were selected by the Professional Development Council. Our congratulations to **Cheryl Bohacek '10** (Oncology/Surgery), **Pam Henderson '67** (Rehab/ACE), **Jeanne Jentzen '73** (Inpatient Surgical Services), **Kim Robison '83** (Cardiac Unit), and **Susan Rogers '81 and '11** (Mother-Baby at the Women's Hospital).



Cheryl Bohacek '10



Pam Henderson '67



Jeanne Jentzen '73



Kim Robison '83



Susan Rogers '81 & '11

The DAISY Award is a nationwide program that rewards and celebrates extraordinary skill and compassionate care given by nurses every day. **Colleen Pfeifer '80** received this prestigious award on July 14th. A nurse at Methodist Women's Hospital, she was nominated by a family who was welcoming their second child. The nominator wrote, "Colleen was mentoring a student at the time and allowed the student to take the reins while coaching her from the sidelines. What a positive role model for this student. Colleen was always upbeat, full of information, and just had a motherly quality about her."



Evelyn Torkelson '60 resides in Spokane, Washington, and was recently featured in the Inland Business Catalyst magazine as a recipient of a 2011 Women in Business Leadership Award. Evelyn is the Director of Physician Recruitment for Deaconess and Valley Medical Centers located in Spokane and in Spokane Valley. Her role is to provide information about the area to interested physicians. In addition, she facilitates along with a team of people the process of matching the physicians' criteria to the appropriate opportunity in the integrated health care delivery system. Evelyn has been at Deaconess and Valley Medical Centers for an amazing 48 years!

Currently working as a nurse instructor at ITT Technical Institute in Omaha, **Susie Wilson '95 and '03** achieved another of her educational goals by receiving her EdD with an emphasis in Health Promotion on May 15th from College of Saint Mary. Susie strives for her nursing students to be culturally competent and for them to provide high quality care. She extends warm thanks to the entire Methodist College faculty and special accolades to **Linda Foley '01 Honorary** for the excellent undergraduate and graduate education she received at NMC.





In Loving Memory



The Alumni Association makes a \$25 donation to the Methodist Hospital Foundation in memory of each deceased alum. Please notify Denise Carlson, director of Alumni Relations by phone at (800) 793-3964 or (402) 354-7256 or e-mail at Denise.Carlson@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.

Wanda (Scott) Patterson '46

Mary Lue Hicks '49

Caroline (Unterschulz) Mills '61

Katherine (Carlson) Meyers '63

Ernell "Ernie" Miller '64

Julane "Julie" (Doty) Koefoot '76

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND OUR
ANNUAL ALUMNI FAMILY EVENT
AT VALA'S PUMPKIN PATCH!

Tuesday, October 4th
Vala's Pumpkin Patch
12102 South 180th Street



Our annual family event at Vala's has become a tradition for many alums and current students. Won't you plan to join us this year? Admission is discounted on Tuesdays and your pass is good for the entire day.

Join us around the bonfires from 4:30 – 6:30 for a complimentary weenie roast. Chips, ice-cold bottled water, 100% juice boxes for the wee ones, and of course, s'mores will be included! Then you're off again to enjoy all that Vala's has to offer.

Please register the number of adults and the number of children attending so we have adequate food and beverages for everyone.

Contact Denise Carlson at (402) 354-7256 or (800) 793-3964 or Denise.Carlson@methodistcollege.edu

*You are Cordially Invited to the
2011 Christmas Coffee & Connections*

Save the date for our 6th Christmas Coffee & Connections gathering on **Saturday, December 3rd**, from 10 a.m. until Noon at the Josie Harper Campus, 720 North 87th Street.

Join us for casual conversation, a complimentary catered brunch, and musical entertainment. This popular event draws alums from all decades and serves as an opportunity to share in the onset of the holiday season.



In keeping with tradition, Angel Tree donations will benefit our Student Crisis Fund. If you are unable to attend, but wish to contribute, send gifts to Denise Carlson, NMC, 720 North 87th Street, Omaha, NE 68114. Please write "Angel Tree Donation" on the memo line.

To assure that we have adequate gifts and goodies, kindly register by calling Denise at (402) 354-7256 or (800) 793-3964 or by e-mail at Denise.Carlson@methodistcollege.edu

CLASS NOTES

Go to www.methodistcollege.edu/alumni/addyourinfo to submit your news, change of address, etc. No access to a computer? Call Denise Carlson, director of Alumni Relations at 402-354-7256 or 800-793-3964. She would enjoy hearing from you!

Congratulations to **Sherri (Randall) VanDyke '86 & '95** - 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 fall/winter newsletter!

1940s

Trowell, RaeMaree (Clark) '44 – and her husband, Loy, reside in Union City, California. RaeMaree has retired from nursing.

1960s

Meek, Joanne (Cox) '64 – has retired from nursing and now enjoys traveling with her husband Robert. They tour the United States in their motor home and winter in El Centro, California.

Shreffler, Connie (Lewis) '69 – and her husband, William, have resided in Nashville, Tennessee for 15 years. They have two children and two grandchildren. Previously a critical care nurse, Connie now employs her MBA along with her nursing background to serve as a labor relations consultant for a large healthcare company.

1970s

Trigg, Sue (Bertagni) '71 – resides in Omaha where she is a school nurse.

Swails, Marylu, (Pearson) '74 – and her husband, LeRoy, live in Jacksonville, Florida. Marylu's nursing practice is in the area of psychiatry.

Trapp, Susan (Zaugg) '75 - is presently the manager at UNMC Physicians Bellevue Medical Center which is a resident teaching facility with the University of Nebraska. She obtained her Ambulatory Care Nurse Certification in April 2007.

Dyar, Valerie (Lane) '79 – has previous nursing practice in many areas. She is currently a Certified Oncology Nurse and practices in the field. Valerie and Jeff reside in Bayfield, Colorado.

1980s

May, David '80 – left Omaha in 1983 for Kansas City, Missouri. For the past 20 years he has lived on Maui in Hawaii. He is employed by Maui Memorial Medical Center where he provides emergency care.

Benton, Penny (Clark) '81 – works in Cameron, Missouri, as a med-surg nurse. She is a grandmother to two girls – a 3 year-old and a 2 year-old.

Kuwitzky, Susan (Bartlett) '81 & '90 – and Todd reside in Omaha with their children, Kelly, born in '93, and Kristen, born in 1995. Currently employed at Methodist Hospital in Critical Care, Susan writes, "I plan to work part-time until my body wears out!!"

Kisicki, Carol (Davison) '83 – writes, "I have been employed at Children's Hospital as a staff nurse since graduation. I have two children – a daughter who is in the PA program at the University of Colorado Medical School and a son who is in architecture college at UNL."

VanDyke, Sherri (Randall) '86 & '95 – was the lucky winner of the \$50 gift card for sending in her update. She lives in Omaha and has worked at Lakeside Hospital in the Procedure Center for seven years.

1990s

Hannan, Jeannie '96 & '00 – first received a certificate and then a Master's degree in Health Promotion. In September 2010, she became the Wellness Manager for UNMC's EngAge Wellness Program in the Home Instead Center for Successful Aging. Jeannie resides in Council Bluffs and writes, "We are a whole-person wellness program for adults age 50+. I love my job!"

Stanzel, Jacqueline (Peacock) '96 – has been married to Mike since June 9, 2001. Their children are Natalia (17), Ryan (16), Nate (12), Nick (7), and Carson (2). The family resides in Valley, Nebraska. Previously a House Supervisor, Jacqueline is now a Trauma Clinical Coordinator.

Rogan, Liz '98 & '07 – writes, "In Spring, 2011 I was promoted to Assistant Professor of Nursing and assumed the office of President of NMC's Faculty Senate. I continue to conduct and present research pertaining to the use of standardized assessments in a BSN program to improve outcomes."

CLASS NOTES

2000s

Darby-Carlberg, Cheryl '00 – now resides in Las Vegas, Nevada, where she is an FNP and an instructor in a BSN program.

Butcher, Barbara (Wisdom) '01 – graduated with her certificate in Health Promotion. She lives in Bellevue, Nebraska. Her daughter, Amanda, is currently enrolled in NMC's Medical Assisting Program.



Meister, Shannon (Ziegler) '02 – writes, "I live in Fremont, NE, and have worked at Fremont Area Medical Center for nine years. I am currently working in the orthopedic joint replacement center. I'm married to Chad and we have two daughters. **Sydney** was born December, 2007 and **Lauren**, July of 2010."



Dewing, Kelly (Rump) '06 – and her husband, Ryan, live in Lincoln, Nebraska. Kelly, a graduate of our accelerated BSN program, writes, "We welcomed a new baby girl, **Jacelyn Emme**, on April 18, 2011. She has a very proud older brother, Cy, who turned two years old a week later on April 25th. I am employed in the Cath Lab at Bryan LGH East in Lincoln and am working on my MSN at Nebraska Wesleyan University."

Hanson, Lana (Steinhauser) '06 – writes, "I married my husband, Kevin, in June 2007. We recently bought our first house in August 2010. Buying a house was stressful, but also very exciting! I have been working at Immanuel Medical Center for almost five years now. I worked in the float pool at Immanuel Medical Center for approximately six months then I became core staff on the acute inpatient rehabilitation floor in December 2007. In July 2008 I received my CBIS certification or Certified Brain Injury Specialist and in June 2010 I became a Certified Rehabilitation Registered Nurse. I have truly enjoyed my job on rehab! It is amazing to watch patients gain back their functional independence after an injury and to see the joy on their faces when they have achieved their goals! I'm also grateful to have compassionate co-workers that are team-players!"

McMillian, Angela '06 – graduated from our Medical Assistant Program and will receive her Associate Degree in December. She and Richard reside in Papillion, Nebraska.

VanSickle, Lani '06 – received her MS in Health Promotion. From 2006-2008 she was the Manager for Health and Healing at Martin Memorial Health Systems in Stuart, Florida. Currently residing in Durham, Lani, is a Health Coach for Take Care Health Systems at a Blue Cross Blue Shield site in North Carolina.

Jacobs, Rachel (Starr) '07 – and James were married on May 21, 2011. Rachel is currently working as a Clinical Nurse Coordinator at Children's Hospital and Medical Center.



James and Rachel Jacobs

Saltzman, Christina (Menendez) '07 – writes, "I got married September 12, 2009. I met my husband the year I attended and was finishing at NMC. Four years go by fast! I'm currently a medical assistant at Nebraska Cancer Specialists. I will soon be doing more MA work along with research for a new practice. No children yet, we are waiting a few more years on that. We travel a lot and spend time with our friends and family."

Soucy, Theresa (Bedrosky) '07 – married Sean on June 5, 2010. They reside in Omaha and are both employed at the VA Hospital. Theresa is an RN in the Medical Evaluation Unit.

Baumann, Lacey '08 – is employed as an RN in the Cardiac Unit at Immanuel Medical Center.

Johnson, Diane (Arnauskas) '10 – and her husband, James, live in Omaha. In February, she accepted an RN position at Bergan Mercy in the Postpartum Unit.

Culver, Crystal '10 – writes, "I recently accepted a position as an RN, working nights in the ICU at Methodist Hospital. Aaron and I are in the process of buying our first home this summer and we are expecting the birth our 2nd daughter in August."



Tressa Kirby (left) and classmate Gina DiMauro

Kerby, Tressa '10 – is a December BSN grad. She writes, "I am working as a NICU nurse at Children's and absolutely love it."

Flegle, Kimberly '11 – received her BSN in May. She moved to Sioux City, Iowa, and is employed by St. Luke's Hospital in the ICU/CCU.

Hansen, LeeAnn (Tauanuu) '11 – married Aaron on May 2, 2011. She is an RN at Methodist in the Cardiac Unit.

Nott, Christin '11 – is a graduate of our Respiratory Care Program. She resides in Cedar Bluffs, Nebraska, and is a respiratory therapist at Columbus Community Hospital in Columbus, Nebraska.



“Thanks to the continued efforts of the Methodist Hospital Foundation and the generosity of our donor community, exciting things are happening on campus. The Charlotte Schultz

Learning Commons will be finished in September with major enhancements to the Student Center, John Moritz Library, and Hood Lobby which will now include a full-function Coffee Bar.

We have also expanded the Hi-fidelity Simulation Lab from one unit to four providing students and faculty more simulation opportunities central to the educational process for today’s health care professionals.

The move to the the new Jean Schmidt Beyer Alumni Center affords you new and additional opportunities to connect with one another.

Please stop by the campus for a tour of these newest additions and to reconnect with faculty and staff.”

*Dennis A. Joslin, PhD, RN
Honorary Alumnus, '99
President and CEO
Nebraska Methodist College*



“I am excited to assume the role of Foundation liason to the Alumni, and I look forward to meeting you soon at an alumni event. Thank you for your dedication and loyalty to NMC.

Imagine a young girl growing up on a farm with a dream of becoming a nurse, or a 45-year old man with two children wanting to return to college to pursue his dream of helping others as a health care professional. Both worry they will not be able to afford the tuition, but through the generosity of donors the Foundation has awarded them scholarships to help realize their dreams.

In this difficult financial time and in the midst of a nursing shortage, the scholarships program needs your support more than ever.”

*Elizabeth Herbek
Director of Development
Methodist Hospital Foundation*

2011 Reunion Award Recipients

2011 Horizon Award – Educator Cathy Barnes, MSN, RN '73



Cathy truly demonstrates each of the established criteria for our most prestigious award. She has been an NMC faculty member since 1983 and has touched the lives of hundreds, if not thousands, of students. Cathy exemplifies all you would ever desire in a nurse who might care for you or a loved one and she instills this art of caring within her students. Her gentle demeanor puts students at ease and her passion for and expertise in caring for oncology patients has inspired many grads to become oncology nurses.

Cathy is known throughout the Omaha area and country as an outstanding woman and educator as evidenced by her many honors that are too numerous to list. She has twice received the Positive Image of Nursing Award from the Nebraska Nurse’s Association; she has been awarded NMC’s Ruth Berggren Elliott Master Teacher Award a record four times and has twice been voted by the Student Government as Faculty Member of the Year. With Cathy as one of their instructors, our nursing students absolutely leave us as skilled practitioners who continue the Methodist legacy of caring.

2011 Honorary Alumna Dr. Linda Hughes



Dr. Hughes has been a faculty member at NMC for 21 years and in 2005 she became the Director of the Undergraduate Nursing Program. She is an enthusiastic representative for the College whether at local, regional or national conferences and she consistently encourages students and graduates to become actively involved in professional organizations. Lin was pivotal in the 2006 chartering of the Tau Tau Charter of Sigma Theta Tau International at NMC. In addition to her many roles at the College, she maintains her critical care clinical expertise by her supplemental position at Methodist Hospital.

Lin has always been supportive of our Alumni Association and has golfed in our tourney several times. An outstanding role model with a collaborative spirit, she has always embraced NMC as her alma mater. So we made it official and welcomed her as one of our own!

If you would like to join your fellow Alumni and make a gift in support of scholarships, please call 402-354-4825, or go to the Foundation website: www.MethodistHospitalFoundation.org and click “Give Now.”

2011 Reunion Highlights



Bonnie Gerlach '47 (seen here next to a Cadet Nurse uniform) was honored as a WWII Cadet Nurse at this year's Reunion. The uniform, along with other Cadet Nurse memorabilia, has been encased in a shadowbox and is on display in the Welcome Room at the new Jean Schmidt Beyer Alumni Center.



Record high Silent Auction proceeds will allow us to award the Alumni Spirit of Caring Scholarships to our current students.



The 50-Year Class proudly takes their Honor Walk at the Reunion Dinner led by **Kay Lynn Goldner**.

The 2011 Reunion held on June 3rd brought alums together from across the country. Attendance nearly doubled for this year's Reunion Dinner! Along with honoring our 50-Year Class of '61, we paid special tribute to our WWII Cadet Nurses. Both brought tears to many eyes and warmed the hearts of all. A rousing standing ovation was given to our **Lucille Freer '41** as she celebrated her 70th Reunion!

The price of this year's dinner was half of the usual cost thanks to the Alumni Association "splitting the bill" with attendees. The popular BBQ theme inspired Western attire, casual Capris, and jeans. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive and the following are just a few of the comments e-mailed from fellow alums:

"We are still enjoying the after-glow of our great alumni reunion."

"Our class just had the best time. :-)"

The Alumni Reunion with all of its festivities is such a grand occasion to renew friendships and share stories."

"I loved the reunion – everything about it! Especially the relaxed format and dress."

For 2012, we will again offer a reduced price for the Reunion Dinner! We will return to the "old campus" Ballroom and Texas Roadhouse will cater the event offering you another opportunity to come casual if you wish!

Save the date!
Next Year's Reunion:
Friday, June 1, 2012!



The Class of '61 gathers for a group photograph in front of the fireplace in the Hood Lobby of the NMC - Josie Harper Campus after a fun morning of reminiscing at their 50-Year Honor Breakfast.

11th Annual NMC Alumni Golf Tournament - June 17, 2011



Faithful alums and friends return again for another great day of golf: **Sue Logan '69, Linda Roney '65, Jean Seykora '73 & '92, and Jean Orr**



Mark Spizman '99 (left) traveled all the way from Arizona to participate in this year's tournament joining NMC's Michelle Nielson's team.



Faculty and staff break for some fun at the tourney too! **Alissa Dornink, Dr. Chris Hamilton Honorary '10, Dr. Pat Sullivan, and Mary Sinclair.**

Congratulations to our 2011 winning teams!

* Women's Team 4 Under Par – 68	Women's Team 4 Under Par – 68	Men's Team 17 Under Par – 55	Mixed Team 12 Under Par – 60
Jan Dixon Judy Frillman Sue Meusey Joyce Whalley	Linda Crouch Kim Doughty Janet McAdams Arlys Rearick	Clarence Brown Steve Goltl Jim Gonzales Troy Mohr	John Conley Tate Fitzgerald RyAnne Hastings Michele Roberts
Women's Team Tie: * Winner was determined by a scorecard playoff.			

Save the Date! Next year's Golf Tourney is June 15th!

The Methodist Alumni Connection
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