



Notes From GREENLEAF

Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing Alumni Association

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Save the Date

Homecoming 2013
Saturday, September 21

Members Only
Brunch 11:00 am
Alumni Dinner 7:00 pm

Any alumni wishing to
celebrate, please
contact Helene Batzek
309-624-9933 or
[helene.c.batzek@
osfhealthcare.org](mailto:helene.c.batzek@osfhealthcare.org)



Alumni Spotlight

Lt. Col. Dennis Level, USA

Dennis Level (1970, Diploma, cum laude) first became interested in nursing after obtaining a summer job as an orderly at Saint Francis Hospital. While a student, he continued to work part-time. He is a native of Peoria, and was born at Saint Francis.

Upon graduation, Dennis was commissioned as an officer in the Army Nurse Corps. Thus began a career that eventually became 22 years and led to his retirement with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. For seven of those years he was assigned to overseas medical facilities, both in the Far East and in Europe. He received numerous military awards, among which were the Meritorious Service Medal and the Expert Field Medical Badge. While in the Army, Dennis was selected to participate in civilian education programs, earning his BSN and MN, Masters in Nursing Administration.

Dennis remembers his first assignment as a staff nurse on an orthopedic unit at Letterman Army Medical Center (San Francisco) as being his most rewarding clinical experience. Nearly all of the patients had been evacuated from Vietnam with the most common injuries being traumatic amputations. A special bond developed among the patients and the staff who cared for them. Most of Dennis' clinical work in the Army was on general surgery and orthopedic units.

Along with increasing rank came increased responsibility in administrative roles to include Head Nurse and Supervisor positions at various Army medical centers and clinics. He also taught in a Licensed Practical Nurse program for three years. For another three years, he was a Nurse Methods Analyst, which involved nursing research and medical product evaluations. In 1983, Dennis was selected to be one of the first Chief Nurses of an Army ROTC region that included eleven states. His final assignment in the Army was as an Assistant Chief Nurse at the primary Army Medical Center in Germany during Operation Desert Storm.

After his military retirement, he entered the civilian sector and was employed as a pharmaceutical sales representative. Dennis now lives near Seattle, is married and has two children, two stepchildren and one granddaughter. He is involved in many post-retirement activities and for the past several years he has been a member of a community banjo band that entertains the residents of assisted living facilities and nursing homes.

Dennis feels that his education at Saint Francis was the foundation for any professional achievements or successes that occurred in his nursing career. Although away from Peoria for many years, he has always read his "Notes from Greenleaf" to keep informed of the outstanding growth and changes that have occurred at Saint Francis Hospital School of Nursing/College of Nursing. He is a lifetime member of the Alumni Association.

Dennis and his wife Laurie are strong believers in the need to support nursing education, and that is why they choose to invest in the college and its students by participating in the annual giving campaign.



Find us on Facebook at
[facebook.com/sfmcccon](https://www.facebook.com/sfmcccon)

Good-Bye and Thank You to Three College Board Members

The College of Nursing is bidding farewell to three valued Board members, Margaret Swanson, Linda Pizzuti, and Cristin Rassi who have all served for three consecutive, 3-year terms. Their commitment, leadership, input, guidance and support will be missed. They have been true advocates for the College of Nursing.



Margaret Swanson, PhD, Vice President of Academic Affairs, Illinois Central College

“First and foremost, strategically working with a wonderful group of talented, caring professionals to advance the mission of the

College of Nursing has been the highlight of my Board tenure. This includes supporting the visionary leadership in action as enrollment increases were planned for and realized, and as new graduate degree programs were created for the community based upon need. Being a part of the Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) steering team and attending two Higher Learning Commission Strategy Forums with the college leadership has been another highlight. Actively participating in the quality improvement initiative discussions at the College of Nursing has been rewarding to me both as a college administrator and as the College of Nursing board chairman. The change within the College over the past nine years has been extraordinary. I have been blessed to be a part of the College Board during this era of strategic vision and growth. I will truly miss my service to the College, but am leaving knowing the great work will continue for many, many years to come!”

Margaret



Linda Pizzuti, MLS, Assistant Provost for Academic Affairs, Bradley University

“Serving on the Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing Board has been a very rewarding experience for me both personally and professionally. Serving a term as Vice Chair was also a very valuable experience as it allowed me the opportunity to work even closer with the College President and other administrators. I have had the pleasure of getting to know many community leaders who also serve on this Board. The experience has been most gratifying.”

Linda



Cristin Rassi, APRN, Advanced Practice Nurse Clinical Nurse Specialist, OSF Saint Francis Medical Center Illinois Neurological Institute

“I was honored to represent Advanced Practice Nursing and serve on the College Board at Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing for nine years. I enjoyed being a member of a diverse and talented group. It was amazing to learn about the tremendous amount of work and planning it takes to operate a successful College. I am thankful to be a graduate of the BSN and MSN program. I am privileged to have contributed my knowledge and experience gained as an APN, and to be the voice for all APN specialties. I will greatly miss being on the College Board and speaking at the graduation ceremonies. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve nine years.”

Cristin



Message from the President

Patricia A. Stockert, RN, PhD

Dear Alumni and Friends,

As I write this letter to you – our over 3700 alumni - the 2012-2013 year has drawn to a close. It has been a very busy year once again for the College. I am looking forward to the new adventures and challenges that will be coming in the 2013-2014 year.

We are truly proud of the accomplishments for the 2012-2013 year. Here are some highlights for the year:

- The fall 2012 enrollment was 635 students and we had a record 655 students who were enrolled in spring 2013. Summer 2013 enrollment stands at 277 students.
- The College graduated 82 BSN, 6 MSN, and 1 Post-graduate Certificate students in December 2012. In May 2013, there were 90 BSN, 11 MSN, 2 Post-graduate Certificate and 2 DNP graduates.
- The College hosted its Scholarship Donor Reception in October with approximately 300 donors and recipients present. We awarded \$99,180 to 104 students.
- The College hosted a successful continuing accreditation visit from the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC) for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program. The next scheduled visit is Fall 2020.
- The College developed and received approval from the College Board and is awaiting approval from National League for Nursing Accreditation Commission (NLNAC) to offer the Doctor of Nursing Practice Leadership option beginning fall 2013.

- The College submitted its second Systems Portfolio as part of the Academic Quality Improvement Program accreditation cycle for the Higher Learning Commission. Very positive and helpful feedback was received from the Systems Appraisal reviewers. Action projects for process improvement are being generated from the opportunities identified.

As economic times continue to be challenging, we remain focused on increasing endowments and scholarships for our students. The continued decrease in federal and state funding for student financial aid presents challenges to the students. Eighty-nine percent of the BSN students received financial assistance of some type during 2012-2013. Loan volumes have remained steady since last year; alternative loans have increased by 1%. During 2012-2013, we had 280 BSN students receiving \$2,535,342 in student loans.

You can make a difference for a student! I ask that you consider making a gift to the College of Nursing scholarship fund.

You are a very important part of the College family, and it is our goal to stay connected with you. I hope to see you on September 21, 2013 at the Alumni Weekend activities.

Patricia A. Stockert, RN, PhD

**We All Know Someone Who as a Nurse Goes
Above and Beyond!**
**Nominate That Alumnus for an
Alumni Award**



Alumni Update

Mary Donnelly, '79 , President, Alumni Association

Greetings,

As the 2012-2013 academic year came to a close, our association once again looked back and reflected on the work we did for ourselves and the College. Membership and participation at meetings and activities continue to rise. Pride in our growing association is expressed through membership, letters, e-mails and phone calls. Classes are contacting us earlier to make plans for reunions. Meeting off campus and moving the social time up front has increased attendance. We are becoming a more recognized positive force within the College as we continually seek ways we can give back to students and the College. I am reminded of this each time I walk by the benches we provided and see students sitting and socializing with one another. On our "Cookie Day"

I heard an off campus clinical student say they were missing the cookies given out by alumni volunteers in the College's Lobby. That problem was solved with a quick call to the College and setting cookies aside for the group's return to campus. Thank you to Carolee Ferris for coordinating this and to Mary Jo Gebhardt and Janet Shipley for distributing cookies to students and swapping stories.

As we enter into the summer months and prepare for the coming year, consider what you would like to see within our association. Take a moment to send a note or give us a call and share your ideas. Remember we are only as strong as our membership!

Have a great summer everyone.



Kimberly Mitchell, RN, PhD, President of Tau Omicron at Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing Says "Thanks to the Chapter Board"

"I would like to thank the people who volunteer their time to

Sigma Theta Tau Tau Omicron. Our chapter is thriving because of these dedicated volunteers. Many, many thanks to all of you!!!"

Vice-President – Theresa Hoadley

Secretary - Nancy Bailey

Treasurer - Paulette Archer

Program Directors – Kelly Fogelmark, Patti O'Connor

Governance Committee - Mary Webster, Keli Briggs, Kelly Cone (Chair)

Faculty Advisor – Kelly Cone

Alumni Representative - Michelle Rolando

Student Representative - Open positions

Historian - Lorri Graham

Succession Committee – Leigh Ann Bonney, CJ Wright Boon, Crystal Slaughter

Keep In Touch

1963

Judy Lambrecht-Dean, RN, DSc., NCTMB, CHt

Just wanted to thank you for keeping me in the loop as to what is happening at SFMCCON. Thought I would give you an update of what I am up to:

I am currently a Medical Hypnotherapist, received a Doctor of Science (DSc.) in Holistic Health in 2009, and the President of the National Association of Nurse Massage Therapists.

I was chosen as the Woman of the Year 2012 by the National Association of Professional Women based on my work within Massage Therapy as a Nurse Massage Therapist.

I cannot believe that I will be celebrating my 50th year in Nursing 2013.

1984

Cindy Ziegler

I graduated from Olivet Nazarene University with my BSN Saturday, May 4th. I received A's in all my nursing classes. Saint Francis School of Nursing taught me well. I am glad I earned my degree and currently working on my AACN certification. I am still working at Carle and have been here for 24 years, will be 25 in January 2014. I live north of Urbana with my husband on his family centennial farm; we have 30 chickens, two ducks, one guinea, three dogs and four cats. Hope all is well with everyone!

1991

Leann (Swigert) Slack

I remain working per diem in Women and Infant Services at McKee Medical Center in Loveland, CO. I have my RNC-OB in inpatient care. I'm happy to announce the finalization of our adoption of our third child in November of last year.

1998

Ruth Whitaker, RN, BSN, CLNC

"B. Ruth Whitaker, RN, BSN, CLNC wishes to announce successful completion of the specialty of Certified Legal Nurse Consultant and is a member in good standing of the NACLNC (National Alliance of Certified Legal Nurse Consultants). With this added credential, Ruth is able to consult with Attorneys, Insurance Carriers, Health Providers, Private Companies/Businesses or International Companies/Businesses on a myriad of cases and issues. Certified Legal Nurse Consultants are able to review medical records for any type of court bound case where there is an issue at hand involving physical, psychological, psychosocial, developmental, and environmental or other factors involving a case. Ruth is one of only 6000 (approximately) Certified Legal Nurse Consultants who belongs to the premier organization of NACLNC. Ruth is available to speak to groups in order to promote and educate those interested in this exciting new career path (available only to RNs)."

Email:ruth.whitaker@frontier.net

2009

Peggy Gebhardt Bush, APN

President of Operations at Vein Experts.org
pbush@veinexperts.org

I am also the administrator of a blog that is in 95 countries with 200-600 visiting daily.

<http://www.bushvenouslectures.com/blog/content.asp?id=2675>

Call or email me if needed!

In Sympathy

The faculty and administration of Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing extend their sympathy to the families of the following Alumni.

Phyllis Hickman '45

Ellen Wright Norton '49

Phyllis Dietsch Longman '51

June Anne Rose Alden '56

Jean Dinelle Alberti '57

Mary McDonald Grimes '62

Barbara Kenward Barnes '63

Patience Taber '04

Mersha Kassa '09

New Alumni Association Members

Lezley Sheetz Anderson	2011	Lacey Reed	2005/2013
Babe Bryant-Simon	2010	Bryn Sampson	2013
Lauren Cagel	2013	Katie Spaniol	2013
Melissi Cravens	2013	Suzanne Tippy	2013
Christopher Cwirla	2012	Janet Riley Whittington	1963
Alissa Eeten	2013		
Sarah Gray	2012		
Andrea Karl	2013		
Rosemary Besserman Maresca	1963		
Xochitl Marin	2013		
Janet Blackman McDaniel	1963		
Rebekah Morgan	2013		
Rosemary Blanco Pumo	1964		

LIFETIME MEMBERS

Carole Caresio Haas	1962
Martha Stevenson Krutke	1973
Dennis Level	1970
Cristin Rassi	1996/2004



Laurenda Swisher, RN, MS Assistant Professor Retires after 40 years

The College said a fond farewell to Laurenda Swisher who retired after 40 years of teaching Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing at the School and College of Nursing. During her career,

Laurenda has taught over 2000 students. She has been a very committed and dedicated teacher and leader and will be missed! We wish her well in her retirement.

“I am retiring with such a mix of emotion. I am ready to begin a new chapter in my life, but also recognize that a very important part of who I am is ending. My years at the School of Nursing and then the College of Nursing have been a significant part of my “development.” I have truly enjoyed my career as a faculty member at the College. I consider my fellow faculty members, staff, and many students/graduates not only as colleagues, but also as friends. I have shared in so many major changes within the College over the years and hope that my efforts have contributed to the excellent

educational program that is Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing.

My hope is that I have contributed to the development of the students I have had the privilege to share my knowledge and experience with. It has been a process of discovery every time I work with students in class and clinical areas. Every day, I feel blessed to have the opportunity to become a part of the life of the students who have been drawn to this College for their education in nursing. There is something very special about SFMC CON.

Thank you and I will continue to think of the College every day.”

Laurenda

Proud of Our Own

Yay! SUPER! HOORAY! Way to go! NICE JOB!
Congrats!



Christina Garcia, RN, PhD, successfully defended her dissertation in April 2013 and completed her doctorate from Illinois State University. We are very proud of all of her accomplishments. Congratulations, Christina!



Jan Boundy, RN, PhD, was selected to receive the Sister Aeterna OSF, Mission Integration Award. Dr. Boundy was selected based on her positive commitment to the Mission and excellence and her integration of the Mission in her daily activities. Congratulations, Dr. Boundy!



Phillis Dewitt, RN, DNP, was selected as the 2013 Illinois Central College Distinguished Alumnus. As part of the honor, she received her award and delivered the commencement address for ICC at their Graduation on May 18, 2013.



Lezley Anderson, RN, MSN, successfully passed her oral comprehensive exam to achieve National Catholic Certification in Health Care Ethics from the The National Catholic Bioethics Center. Congratulations, Lezley!



Theresa Miller, RN, PhD(c), passed her written comprehensive exam for her PhD and successfully defended her dissertation at Capella University. Congratulations, Theresa!



Lorri Graham, RN, MS, CNE, successfully passed the National League for Nursing (NLN) Certification Exam to become a Certified Nurse Educator. Congratulations, Lorri!



Denise Crayton, Admissions Coordinator, has been selected to participate in the Amazing Employees project through OSF Saint Francis Medical Center. Denise was featured on the Peoria digital billboards from June 1 – 30, 2013 and appears on the Careers page web banner on the OSF SFMC website. Congratulations, Denise!



Sona Siegel, RN, MSN, CNE, successfully completed the National League for Nursing (NLN) Certification Exam to become a Certified Nurse Educator. Congratulations, Sona!

College of Nursing “Growing Our Own”

The College of Nursing truly believes in the concept of “Growing Our Own.” This is evidenced by the number of former School of Nursing and College of Nursing graduates who have returned to the College as faculty and staff for the 2012-2013 year.

Lezley Anderson 2011

Paulette Archer 1970

Leigh Ann Bonney 2003/2007

Janice Boundy 1961

Laura Bowers 2001

Karen Burkitt 2004

Kelly Jo Cone 1992

Kathy Coultas 1998

Phyllis Dewitt 2009/2012

Linda Doling 2008/2013

Mary Donnelly 1979

Caitlin Fitzgerald 2006/2009

Kelly Fogelmark 2007/2010

Megan Frye 1999/2010

Lorri Graham 1984/1996

Maureen Hermann 1995/2011

Karla Leffler 1998

Theresa Miller 1989

Patti O'Connor 2007

Beth Reese 2012

Melanie Reeves 2011

Lynne Reiner 1989/2009

Beverly Reynolds 1975

Suzan Shane-Gray 1975/1992

Crystal Slaughter 2004/2007/2012

Julie Strandberg 1990

Robin Strange 2011

Ibbie Voltz 1990

June West 1995/2006

CJ Wright Boon 2008

College of Nursing Celebrating the First BSN Graduating Class

The College of Nursing will be celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Class of 1988, the first class to graduate from the BSN program at the College of Nursing. We are inviting the graduates to help celebrate this special occasion.

The graduates were: Diane Ryan Camplese, Beth Sherwood Grandgenett, Jeannie Haynes, Rhonda Morgan Kincheloe, Wendy Schurtz Klister, Mary Knutson, Karen Naleway, Phyllis Richardson, Barbara Aldag Sons, Susan Statkewitsch, Kristine Bahler Steidinger, Kristine Tyler Rose

Still looking for: Rhonda Morgan Kincheloe and Wendy Schurtz Klister



The Alumni Association is selling

**Palmetto Pewter
pendants of the College
logo for \$10.00**
and
**6" x 6" clear static cling
vinyl decals for \$5.00.**

If interested, please contact Helene Batzek at 309-624-9933 or helene.c.batzek@osfhealthcare.org



Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing

HOMECOMING

Saturday
September 21
2013

Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing is very proud of our alumni. Our alumni are a positive reflection on the College and for over 100 years have made our school one of the finest nursing colleges in the State.

Please get your classmates together for Homecoming 2013 and plan on a great evening. Helene Batzek can provide you with class names, addresses, phone numbers, and e-mails.

• **11 a.m., Members Only Brunch, College of Nursing. Tours available upon request.**

• **6:30 through 11:30 p.m., Alumni Dinner, Four Points by Sheraton Peoria (Dinner at 7:00 p.m.)**

Discounted rooms for overnight stay at Four Points by Sheraton Peoria are \$57. Be sure to mention the College of Nursing Alumni Dinner.

Alumni Survey Drawing Winners

Each year, the Evaluation Committee of the College conducts a survey of one, five, and ten year graduates of the undergraduate program as part of the Systematic Evaluation Plan. The information gathered is one method of determining the effectiveness of the educational programs of the College.

This year the College implemented a new incentive to increase the response rate for our surveys. All graduates who completed the surveys for each alumni group were entered into a drawing for \$50.00 gift certificates. The winner for the one year alumni group was Elizabeth Mahrt, the winner for

the five year alumni group was Mary McCance Hackney, and the winner for the ten year alumni group was Michelle Stark. Congratulations!

The target response rate was achieved for each alumni group this year. Data received from the alumni surveys continues to reflect a high level of satisfaction with the BSN program. The College will continue to offer a drawing for those who complete the surveys in the future. The College values your feedback and the drawing is one way the College hopes to thank you for your participation in the survey process.

Class of 1948, 1963, and 1983 Planning 65th, 50th, and 30th Anniversaries

Anniversary celebrations are being planned for Saturday, September 21, 2013
at the Four Points by Sheraton Downtown Peoria.

A reunion is being planned by Mary Ellen Kennedy and Ida White. Free Members Only Brunch will be held in the College at 11:00 am followed by a tour of the College on request. There will be a reunion dinner at the Four Points by Sheraton in Peoria at 6:30 pm. Letters will be sent out with more information and invitations will be out in August.

1948 graduates – please contact:

- > **Mary Ellen Kennedy** 309-682-3489
marekennedy@aol.com
- > **Ida White** 309-657-0463
- > **Helene Batzek, Alumni Relations,** 309-624-9933
helene.c.batzek@osfhealthcare.org

Still looking for: Marian Grace Bell, Barbara Tuffentsamer Birthesel, Dorris Perkins DePoy, Virginia Maslanka Eitzen, Avis Doubek Fazier, Kathleen Cody Ford, Patricia Kuder-Buell Handley, Marquerite Shirk Hirner, Ruth Lohnes Johnson, Mary Rice Knutson, Barbara Wright Licota, Nadine Heimeshoff Loveridge, Helen Milos, Ruth Forney Rogers, Sabas Veil.

1963 graduates – please contact:

- > **Julie Kirchgessner** 309-685-1575
julkirch@gmail.com
- > **Ginger Jacocks** 309-689-1158
mikginja@mtco.com
- > **Helene Batzek, Alumni Relations,** 309-624-9933
helene.c.batzek@osfhealthcare.org

1983 graduates – please contact:

- > **Jeanne (Beauprez) Barton** 615-269-7643
heabbe2148@yahoo.com
- > **Allison (Steach) Alden** 309-465-3043
- > **Amy (Alden) Eathington** 309-243-7045
- > **Helene Batzek, Alumni Relations,** 309-624-9933
helene.c.batzek@osfhealthcare.org

Still looking for: Lynn Davis Barrineau, Mary Smith Brandt, Penny Carlson, Kathleen Beetler Dadds, Jill Thomas Eads, Patricia Polley Eaves, Teresa Detweiler Ewin, Elizabeth Gardner, Sally Griffith, Adele Froheich Haggard, Laura Schultz Musselman, Kathleen Tremain, Gayle Kemper Trowbridge, Mary Jo Volp, Mary Kircher Wise



Keep Sending Us Your Thoughts and Ideas

The College continues to read your communications and it is our goal to serve you as best we can. If you have any input to what you would like to see the College and Alumni Association do, please contact **Helene Batzek** at **309-624-9933** or **helene.c.batzek@osfhealthcare.org**.

We'd like to hear from you!

Is there any professional or personal news you'd like to share with your colleagues? New job? Promotion? Advanced certification? Honors/awards? Professional activities? Marriage? New baby? Move? What would you like to see included in *Notes from Greenleaf*? Send us the details.

Last Name		First	Surname
Home Address		Telephone	
City	State	Zip Code	
Occupation	E-mail	Yr. Graduated	
SFMC/CON/SFHSON Degree(s)		Year(s) Received	
Other Degree(s)	Year(s) Received	Institution	Major

For further information contact Helene Batzek, Alumni Relations Representative.
Phone: (309) 624-9933 E-mail: helene.c.batzek@osfhealthcare.org

Please help keep our alumni files current by sending us your e-mail address and phone number.

Interested in Joining the Alumni Association?

Name: _____
Surname: _____ Class: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Phone Number: _____
E-mail: _____

Please respond to Paulette Archer '70 at (309) 655-4132, paulette.m.archer@osfhealthcare.org, or mail your \$10 membership fee (\$250 for Lifetime Membership) to 511 NE Greenleaf St., Peoria, Illinois 61603. Make checks payable to SFMC-CON Alumni Association



Notes From GREENLEAF

Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing
511 NE Greenleaf, Peoria, Illinois 61603

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2013 Calendar of Events

August 15	5:30 pm	Alumni Dinner Meeting	Home of Edith Matarelli '50
September 21	11:00 am	Members Only Brunch	College of Nursing
September 21	6:30 pm	Homecoming 2013 Dinner	Four Points by Sheraton
October 17	5:30 pm	Alumni Dinner Meeting	Weaver Ridge Golf Club
November 21	5:30 pm	SFMCCON Thanksgiving Dinner	Spalding Pastoral Center, Peoria

No meeting in December

