


Mercy Alumni Annual Reunion

On May 28, 112 alumni and guests gathered for the annual reunion at The Premier. Seventeen members of the class of 1965 were present to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of their graduation from Mercy School of Nursing. All but one came to Mercy College on Friday for a luncheon and tour of the former hospital and school setting. They were amazed at the changes that have transpired as Mercy College continues to prepare students for a variety of healthcare professions.

Nancy Nusbaum Hamman, class of 1950, was the “most senior” alumna present as she celebrated her 65th anniversary. Joining her was her daughter Edith Keeler.

All classes celebrating five year anniversaries were recognized with corsages and reserved seating for their class group.

The Mercy Distinguished Graduate Award was presented to Marsha Hailman Brown, class of 1967. Marsha’s husband, Bill; daughter, Heather VanderPol, class of 2013; son and daughter-in-law, Jon and Kathleen Canty; and cousin, Mary Pat Reifsnieder, along with eight of Marsha’s classmates, joined in the celebration.

The date for next year’s reunion has been set for Thursday, May 19. 



Marsha Hailman Brown, 1967 with the 2015 Distinguished Graduate Award and daughter, **Heather Canty VanderPol**, 2013



Marsha Brown and her family



Nancy Reardon Esker, Anne Kasper Jennings and **Linda Laflamme Mugler** from the Class of 1965

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Mercy College to Host Higher Learning Commission Site Visit

Mercy College of Ohio is seeking comments from the public about the College in preparation for its periodic evaluation by its regional accrediting agency. The College will host a Higher Learning Commission site visit team November 2 and 3, 2015. Mercy College of Ohio has been accredited by the Commission since 1995 and has a campus in Toledo, Ohio and a location in Youngstown, Ohio. The team will review the institution’s ongoing ability to meet the Commission’s Criteria for Accreditation.


The public is invited to submit comments regarding the College:

**Third-Party Comment on Mercy College of Ohio
The Higher Learning Commission
230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500
Chicago, IL 60604-1411**

The public may also submit comments on the Commission’s Website at:

<http://hlcommission.org/HLC-Institutions/third-party-comment.html>

Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs. Comments must be in writing.

Written comments are due to the Commission by October 1, 2015. 

2015 ALUMNI REUNION AND BANQUET PHOTOS



Class of 1955



Class of 1960



Class of 1965



Class of 1967



Class of 1975



Class of 1980



Class of 1990



Clockwise from top left: Terry O'Donnell, 1980, pins flower on Alice Herman Moriarty, 1955; Marilyn Snyder, 1959 and Marie Archambeault Masztak, 1964; Rosemary Kun Doran and Susan Stubleski, Class of 1965, at Raffle tables; Nancy Nusbaum Hamman, 1950, and daughter Edith Keeler

Employee Spotlight: Erin Hennessey

Supporting the Study of Nursing to a 'Hire' Degree

Erin Hennessey, DNP, APRN, FNP-C, Assistant Professor of Nursing, understands the emotional and physical demands of going to nursing school as well as anyone. She joined Mercy College just over a year ago, after earning her bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. It was this intense academic experience that 'put her in the shoes' of the students she works with every day.

“My favorite part of the job, by far, is working with the students. I enjoy getting to be part of their educational process. They teach me just as much as I teach them.”

“I did a completion program myself, and I did it with two kids, and a husband, and a full-time job,” said Hennessey. “So I do completely understand the challenges that come along with having multiple responsibilities, but also, wanting to take that ‘next step’ professionally to open up new doors.”

That next step for many current registered nurses is to enroll in a bachelor's degree completion program. Erin says that while there are plenty of options to choose from, Mercy College should be at the very top of anyone's list for a variety of important reasons.

“Mercy College is extremely committed to its students. In particular, there are a lot of dedicated, passionate educators on this campus who have a ton of energy for what they do,” Hennessey said. “Even better, we recently conducted a restructuring of the completion program. The changes make it easier for students who are currently

working in the field of nursing to supplement their experience with an additional professional component.”

Erin believes that having a bachelor's degree is becoming a key element for employment at hospitals and healthcare organizations – something most will “need to move on in their careers.” She advises against resting on your laurels and becoming ambivalent about investing in a more advanced degree.

“You'll hear many nurses say, ‘I'm happy where I am. I don't feel the need to go back,’” Hennessey said. “Well, that might be fine until one day when they realize they want to move forward and make a change, but can't, all because they did not take the time to earn their bachelor's degree.”

She says there is a growing national trend to hire nurses with bachelor's degrees. Many organizations are even requiring their RNs to go back to school for their bachelor's degrees within five years of being hired.

Mercy College's new streamlined completion curriculum provides several advantages. For starters, students will see less repetition of coursework and greater credit afforded to those who possess skills that have been mastered through daily practice. In general, Erin disdains the idea of retaking tests for the mere sake of it.

“A certain amount of mastery and experience comes with professional clinical employment and it's time that students get credit for what they do,” Hennessey said. “The changes are reflective of current trends in professional nursing and nursing education, but there has been no compromise in standards. If anything, the new Mercy College completion program is more applicable to the real world than it has ever been.”



Erin Hennessey, DNP, APRN, FNP-C

Hennessey is also proud that she and her fellow faculty members do all they can to reach out to students who want to go back, but are reluctant for one reason or another.

“There are strategies for success, and there is no time like the present to begin,” Hennessey said. “Better yet, students who pursue their completion degree online, are still connected to the deep resources of Mercy College. Students can log on at their own pace, working around their own schedules. It's challenging, but not overly so.”

She says her “favorite part of the job, by far, is working with students.” In addition, Erin claims she enjoys getting to be part of their educational process – one in which she feels “they teach me just as much as I teach them.”

The ethics, the morals of Mercy College live ‘on and out’ through its students. For Hennessey, a nursing education professional who “moonlights as a mom,” raising a 12-year-old girl and an 8-year-old boy in Michigan, there isn't anything she rather be doing or anywhere else she would rather do it than at Mercy.

Is Mercy College the best option for an RN looking to earn his or her bachelor's degree? Erin says, “Absolutely!” 🏠

Alumni Spotlight: Ilesha Bass

'Seeing is Believing' in Mercy College

Ilesha Bass, a 2014 graduate of Mercy College's ophthalmic certificate program, had graduated from Woodward High School, and like many others her age, wasn't really sure what she wanted to do. However, what she did have was an older sister who enrolled in Mercy College's ophthalmic certificate program – a positive influence who encouraged her to do the same thing.

"I said to myself, 'If my older sister likes it, maybe I will, too.' So one day, I visited the Mercy College website and looked up the program," Bass said. "I read the descriptions and the ophthalmic technology program caught my eye, so I thought I would go for it."

Her enthusiasm for the program grew when she discovered it was a short-term, one-year commitment, which was something she really wanted. She also liked that Mercy College has "the smaller class sizes, so the instructor can be more attentive to what is going on in class, unlike in a larger college or university environment."

The ophthalmic program gave Ilesha "hands-on experience" in the field: "When I did the 'clinicals,' I knew this was something I wanted to do. I think it's because you're working with the doctor and learning how things are behind the scenes; not as a patient, but as a professional. It really drew me closer to the program."

Naturally, Ilesha is thankful for the direction Mercy College has given her professionally. Today, she works full-time as a certified ophthalmic assistant, but she insists that her future is even brighter.

"This is definitely the beginning. I love eye care and it's amazing," Bass said. "I told myself, 'I'm going to be somebody and do something with myself. So, I took a stab at it and it all turned out wonderfully.'"

Bass plans to become a Healthcare Administrator and eventually would like to manage an office. "After completing the Health Information Technology associate degree I plan to pursue the Healthcare Administration bachelor's degree completion program. Achieving my goals has been like a happy fairytale ending. Truthfully, I didn't expect to love it as much as I do. I would recommend it to anyone." Both Health Information Technology and Healthcare Administration programs are conveniently offered online.

Yet, she is quick to point out that while the program is rewarding, it still requires a commitment. Like anything, the ophthalmic program starts out pretty easy but had plenty of challenges. Ilesha says you might hit a few rough patches. She admits she did herself, but that the teachers are always there to help you "through the tough times."

"My teachers were so great and gave me the confidence to keep going. They gave me the motivation to see my studies through to the end, saying, 'You need to do this,'" Bass said. In part, due to their encouragement, Ilesha took the time to get her "head on straight" and graduated with a 4.0.

Ilesha Bass earned her ophthalmic certificate on May 4, 2014, and is continuing her studies later this fall. In the meantime, she has become a fully certified ophthalmic assistant, earning credentials which give her the legal permission to work anywhere in the state or the country within the field.

"I love it. I was already hired before I even graduated," Bass said. "I have actually recommended the program to friends. And some of them have even enrolled in the program. It all has worked out amazingly."




Ilesha Bass

"This is definitely the beginning. I love eye care and it's amazing. I told myself, 'I'm going to be somebody and do something with myself. So, I took a stab at it and it all turned out wonderful.'"

For now, Ilesha has a full-time job to attend to and goals to accomplish for a bright and hopeful future. Hindsight may be 20/20, but it's given Ilesha perspectives that would have never caught her eye in the past.

Bass says, "I never knew there were so many different structures to the eye and to eyeglass prescriptions." Now, she believes she can see the bigger picture. It makes her feel good that she is part of the team that can "help people with their vision and possibly make it better." 📖

Commencement

Mercy College of Ohio commencement ceremonies were held for 276 graduates on Friday, May 1, at the Toledo Museum of Art Peristyle for the first time. Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral can no longer accommodate the large graduating classes. Bachelor's and associate degrees were awarded in Healthcare Administration, Medical Imaging, Nursing, Cardiovascular Technology, Health Information Technology, Radiologic Technology, General Studies and for the first time, Human Biology. 138 associate degrees and 138 bachelor's degrees were awarded. This year's graduating class included Patricia Baca, who received an associate degree in General Studies. Patti has completed her candidacy with the Sisters of Mercy and became a novice on July 18, 2015. 



Sr. Dorothy Thum, RSM
with Patricia Baca



Mercy has announced an RN Residency program for new Registered Nurses beginning their careers

The Mercy RN Residency program will prepare you for a career in nursing by organizing and overseeing all aspects of your transition into professional nursing. It is the best way for you to gain the experience, skills, judgment, and confidence you'll need to thrive in your new career. Our comprehensive and highly-supportive program is designed by nurses, for nurses.

All new graduate RNs are enrolled in this nationally recognized 18 week program. Upon successful completion of this paid RN Residency, you'll be prepared to work as an independent, professional RN on your home unit.

You will continue to receive support and development opportunities throughout the first full year of your career.

Opportunities are available throughout Mercy hospitals:

- Mercy St. Anne Hospital
- Mercy St. Charles Hospital
- Mercy St. Vincent Medical Center
- Mercy Children's Hospital
- Mercy Defiance Hospital
- Mercy Tiffin Hospital
- Mercy Willard Hospital

The chance to start a fulfilling career is right here.

Eligibility

New graduate RNs are eligible to apply. Candidates must pass the NCLEX prior to the start of the program.


To Apply for RN Position

Submit an online application via www.mercyweb.org/jobs

Mercy College held its first White Coat Ceremony for the Baccalaureate in Nursing (BSN) class of 2017



The White Coat Ceremony historically has been a rite of passage for medical schools, dentistry schools, and other medical professional schools. The ceremony was developed by Arnold P. Gold, M.D., who sought to bring a humanistic focus to medicine and to promote the importance of compassionate care. It marks the student's transition from the study of preclinical health sciences to clinical health sciences. In 2014 the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) and the Arnold P. Gold Foundation joined together to introduce the ceremony to nursing students earning a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) or higher degree. The White Coat Ceremony is held following the completion of pre-nursing courses and prior to the student entering the patient care clinical areas. AACN believes that by offering the White Coat Ceremony the nursing students will understand that, "compassionate care must be a hallmark of their clinical practice" (AACN President Eileen T. Breslin).

Mercy College's ceremony was held on August 21, 2015 and involved the citing of an oath and a formal "robing" or "cloaking" of students in white coats traditionally worn by health care professionals for more than 100 years. Jacalyn Liebowitz, Chief Nurse Executive and Chief Quality Officer of Mercy Northern Region, presented an inspiring speech about the value of compassion in nursing and the many contributions to modern nursing and medicine made by Florence Nightingale. Each Mercy College BSN student was met on stage by the new Interim BSN Program Chair Deborah Karns, RN, BSN, MSN, PhD who handed them their white coats. Students then processed to Valerie Pauli, Assistant Professor, who "cloaked" them with the white coat. Mercy College President Susan Wajert, PhD, congratulated each one as they walked off the stage. All the students and nurses in attendance were invited to recite the Nightingale Pledge. Sister Karen Elliott, C.P.P.S, BS, MA, DMin, and Sister Barbara Davis, SC, BSEd, MATM prayed a blessing of the hands for the students as they begin the patient care area of their education. A small reception was held for the students, their families, and faculty following the White Coat Ceremony. 

In Memoriam


Since the publication of the last issue of Mercy News, we have been notified of the death of a number of our alumni. May God grant them eternal rest.

08/02/2014 1960 **Mary McVay Herr**
08/14/2014 1946 **Rita Snyder Busse**
02/17/2015 1961 **Rita Mae Reinick Urban**
05/05/2015 1955 **Betty Green Bockbrader**

News from Our Alumni


Betsy Byersmith, BSN graduate in May 2013, wrote that she is now employed at Flower Hospital in the Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit. She was one of two nominees, from approximately 60 RN's in the department, for the Nursing Excellence Award for 2015. Congratulations, Betsy!

Jodi Fireld McCrate, ASN graduate in May 2010, wants everyone to know that: "Choosing the career of nursing and attending Mercy College of (Northwest) Ohio has been one of the best decisions I have ever made in my life. I feel so blessed to be a part of this wonderful, diverse, challenging, yet extremely rewarding profession. I LOVE BEING A NURSE & A MERCY GRADUATE."

Stephen Christie, ASN graduate in December 2005, wrote to say that he was married last year to his beloved bride, Lucia, and they honeymooned in her native country of Romania. He recently authored "Not Really 'Of' Us: Why Do Children of Christian Parents Abandon the Faith" which is available through Westbow Press. 

Join the Legacy Society

Have you remembered Mercy College of Ohio Foundation in your estate plans and not told us? We invite you to join alumni and friends who have made planned gifts on our behalf and welcome you to the Mercy College Legacy Society. Discussing your estate plans with our Advancement Office staff ensures that your gift is designated according to your wishes, and allows us to recognize you for your generosity and forethought.

For additional information on the Legacy Society, please contact **Mike Whalen**, Director of Advancement, at **419-251-1824** or **michael.whelen@mercycollege.edu**. 



Let us hear from you

The Mercy College Advancement Office is here to serve you. Keep your classmates and the College informed of your achievements, career changes, honors and accomplishments through the *Mercy News*.

Your full name (include maiden if appropriate)

Graduation year (earliest degree)

Street Address

City State Zip

Is this a new address? Yes No

Do you have a seasonal address? Yes No

Street Address

City State Zip

Home phone number (include area code)

Cell phone number (include area code)

Email address

Place of employment

Please submit news of any accomplishments on a separate sheet.

Mail this form to:
Sister Barbara Davis, SC
2221 Madison Ave.
Toledo, OH 43604

You may contact her by email at **barbara.davis@mercycollege.edu** or by phone at **419-251-1704**. Updates can also be submitted from the Mercy College web site at: **mercycollege.edu/alumni-friends**.

2015

HOMECOMING CELEBRATION

SEPTEMBER 18-20



FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 18
**Scramble for
Scholarships &
Foot Golf Scramble**

SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 19
Mercy Night Out

SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 20
**Alumni Mass
and Brunch**