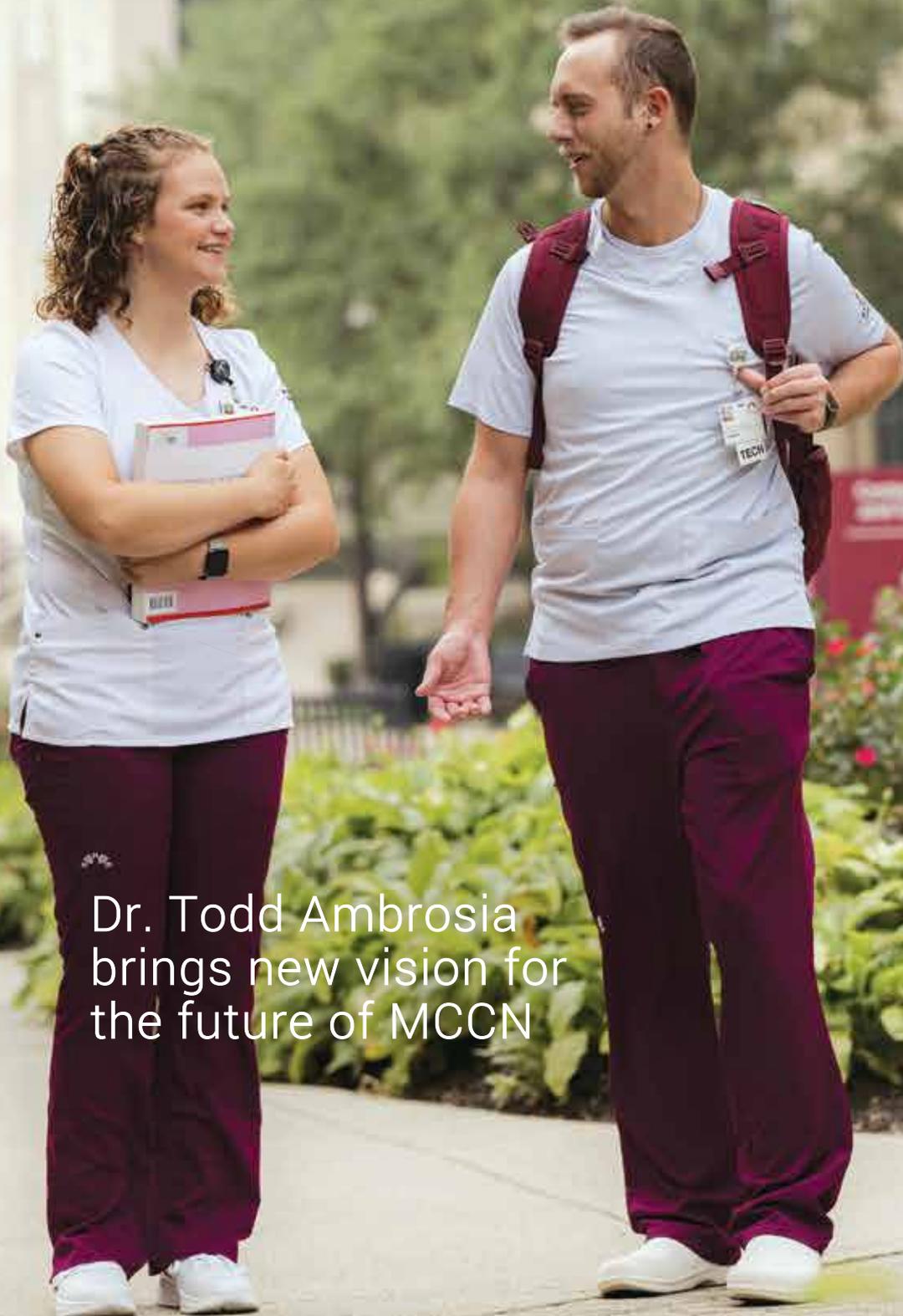


the LAMP

WINTER 2024

mount carmel college of nursing magazine



Dr. Todd Ambrosia
brings new vision for
the future of MCCN



MOUNT CARMEL
College of Nursing



A NEW VISION FOR MCCN

Last May, Mount Carmel College of Nursing welcomed new president, Todd Ambrosia, DNP, MSN, MBA, FNP-BC, FNAP.

Dr. Ambrosia came to Mount Carmel from the Mount Sinai Health System in New York, where he served as Vice President of Nursing Academic Affairs and Dean of the Mount Sinai Phillips School of Nursing.

“I’ve enjoyed a warm welcome to the Mount Carmel family and to the central Ohio community,” said Ambrosia. “Taking every opportunity to meet and engage with students, alumni, health system colleagues, community leaders, and especially our faculty and staff has been a great experience. I am impressed by the amazing 120-year legacy of the College and deep in the strategic planning process to chart our course forward.”

Developing the new MCCN strategic plan has been at the forefront of Ambrosia’s work so far. Multiple focus groups, representing all constituencies of the college, have provided their expertise, input, and guidance in the planning process. “It’s essential that we have all voices represented to learn, through their eyes, what goals, objectives, and tactics will move MCCN successfully into the future,” said Ambrosia.

As evidenced by his outreach to inform the strategic plan, Dr. Ambrosia’s leadership style focuses on elevating inclusion and collaborating to achieve success. His warmth and openness are demonstrated with an infectious sense of optimism, ready smile and active, attentive listening style.



DEVELOPING A NEW STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE FUTURE OF THE COLLEGE



Installation mass held to bless the tenure of new MCCN President

Bishop Earl Fernades presided over a mass to bless Dr. Todd Ambrosia and his work on behalf of the College on September 14, 2023. Representatives of all the College constituencies – students, faculty, staff, volunteer leaders, health system executives, community members and Foundation donors - were on hand to participate in and celebrate this occasion.

Beyond the plan, Dr. Ambrosia has created new, informal, direct opportunities to connect with students, faculty, staff and community members. A regular schedule of occasions to visit and talk with College leaders in a casual setting has been established and well-attended over the past few months by faculty, staff, and students. Discussion topics are not generally set in advance, so participants are free to raise any issue of interest to them.



Ambrosia’s desire to connect doesn’t end at the doors of the College. He has a stated and demonstrated desire to connect the College to Mount Carmel Health System even more closely than it is today. “One of our College’s key differentiating factors is our relationship with our health system,” said Ambrosia. “Our students benefit from the clinical opportunities available to them through MCHS, better preparing them for their professional practice.”

MCCN’s affiliation with Trinity Health nationally and Mount Carmel Health System locally offers students advanced clinical learning opportunities at four hospitals and various ambulatory sites throughout central Ohio and beyond. Additionally, the College will continue to expand its continuing education offerings for health care professionals currently in practice.

“We’re looking for every opportunity to collaborate, within and outside Mount Carmel,” said Ambrosia. “We need more nurses in practice to meet the growing need for care here in fast-growing central Ohio, throughout the country and the world. This is not only our biggest opportunity, but most urgent challenge as well.”

Top priorities for MCCN are: 1.) MCCN Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree remains cutting edge, pursued by our traditional four-year students, as well as through our highly sought Second Degree Accelerated Program and our extremely successful Online RN-BSN Completion Program; and, 2.) enhancing MCCN’s innovative Graduate Program. The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) offers a unique immersion experience that allows students to specialize, to earn evidence-based practice certification, and to graduate in just 18 months.

Ambrosia is no stranger to advancing and improving excellence in nursing education by fine-tuning programs and opportunities to better meet student and industry needs. While at Mount Sinai, he successfully led a turnaround of the nursing school, launching new academic programs and increasing enrollment and student retention. He grew revenue and led a capital project to build a new school of nursing. Additionally, during his tenure, the school advanced diversity efforts, research strength, and fundraising.

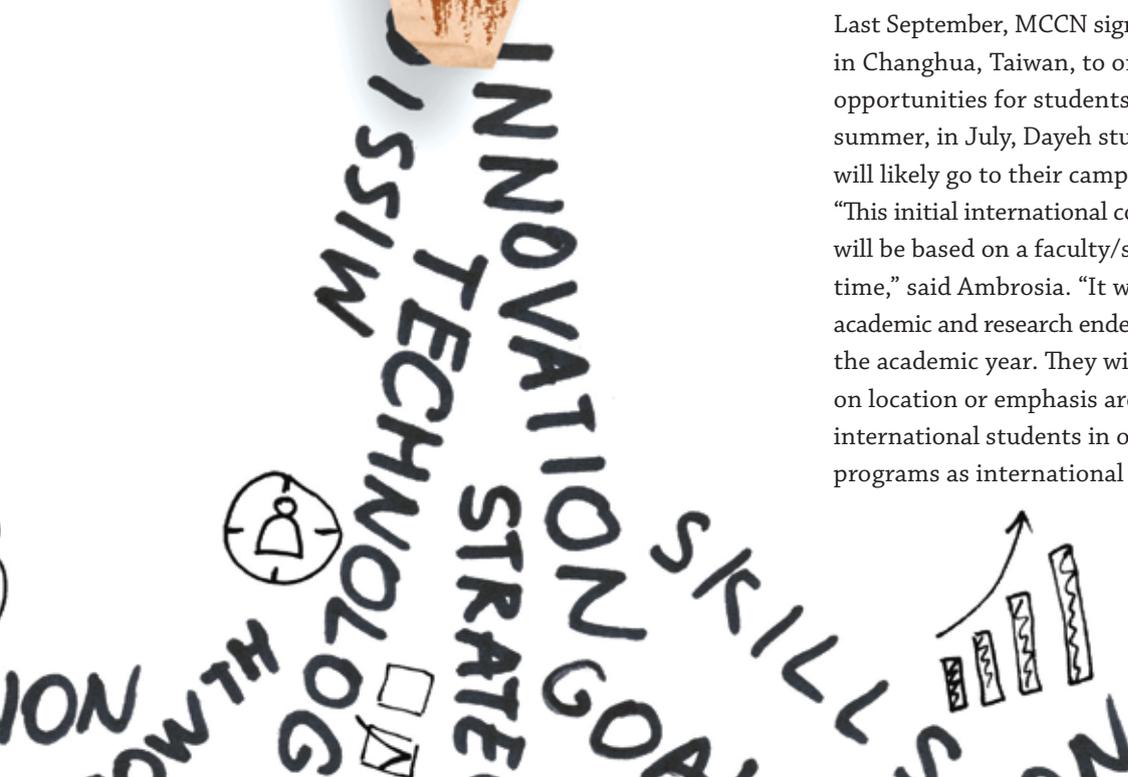




As a board-certified family nurse practitioner, Dr. Ambrosia is active clinically in adolescent and young adult primary care and has established research and academic collaborations with universities in Italy, Taiwan, Colombia, Belgium, India, and Malaysia. He is also a staunch advocate for global health promotion. He regularly provides volunteer clinical services to underserved adolescents and young adults in high-need areas nationwide and worldwide.

During his tenure at the University of Maryland, he served as a Faculty Liaison to the United States Foreign Medical Service, Dr. Ambrosia traveled the world, providing education, training, and consultation to U.S. State Department personnel in embassies. His plans for MCCN include expanding its international partnerships and presence.

Last September, MCCN signed an agreement with Dayeh University in Changhua, Taiwan, to offer academic, research, and exchange opportunities for students in their respective institutions. “Next summer, in July, Dayeh students will come to MCCN. Our students will likely go to their campus next winter break,” said Ambrosia. “This initial international collaboration, as well as those yet to come, will be based on a faculty/student exchange for a defined period of time,” said Ambrosia. “It will be related to cultural humility and academic and research endeavors to happen at interval points during the academic year. They will likely have topical/focus areas, based on location or emphasis areas of the institutions. We plan to enroll international students in our programs and potentially begin some programs as international cohorts on site as well,” he added.



A Message from the Mount

Dear Mount Carmel College of Nursing Community,

As we embark on this new year, I am filled with excitement for the incredible journey we have ahead of us. With the new year, there comes new opportunities and often with new opportunities, we encounter change.

As nurses, we are no strangers to change. Our profession demands adaptability, resilience, and a willingness to embrace new ideas and approaches. Over the past year, we have witnessed firsthand the power of change as we navigated the ever-changing healthcare environment and the challenges this post-pandemic era has posed. We stood strong, united, and unwavering in our commitment to providing exceptional care to our patients and communities.



But change is not limited to external circumstances; it is also an internal process. As individuals, we are constantly evolving, growing, and learning. Our profession is ever-evolving, with new research, technologies, and best practices emerging regularly. It is our responsibility to stay informed, open-minded, and willing to embrace these changes for the betterment of our patients and ourselves.

Over the past several months, I have discussed and explored various aspects of change in nursing, here at MCCN, within the Mount Carmel Health System, and nationally with nursing advocacy and practice groups. I have heard from alumni who have successfully navigated career transitions, embracing change as an opportunity for personal and professional growth. I have also taken the opportunity to develop and participate in innovative projects and initiatives that our college community has undertaken, further highlighting the positive impact of change.

I encourage you all to share your stories, experiences, and insights on embracing change as nurses with the greater nursing community of students and those involved in providing care at the bedside or in the community. Let's celebrate these moments of transformation, both big and small, that have shaped our journeys. Together, we can inspire and empower one another to embrace change, adapt to new challenges, and continue to provide exceptional care to those who need it most.

As we move forward into this new year, remember that change is not something to be feared, but rather something to be embraced. It is through change that we grow, learn, and make a difference in the lives of others. Together, we can celebrate the incredible power of change as nurses.

Wishing you all a year filled with growth, resilience, and endless possibilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Todd Ambrosia'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Todd Ambrosia, DNP, MSN, MBA, FNP-BC, FNAP
President

COLLEGE CALENDAR 2024

March 4 – 10

Spring Break

March 29

Good Friday

March 31

Easter Sunday

May 5

Spring semester ends

May 11

Commencement

CONTACTS:

Lori Berkheimer
Marketing Manager
Mount Carmel Health System
Lori.berkheimer@mchs.com

Alumni Affairs
614.234.5681
alumniaffairs@mccn.edu

COLLEGE ADDRESS:

127 South Davis Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43222-1504

Visit our website at
www.mccn.edu

For mailing list
updates contact:
collegerelations@mccn.edu

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THE LAMP

WRITER/EDITOR: KELLY ARLEDGE, MS, MPS
KWA PUBLIC RELATIONS, LLC

DESIGNER: SHEILA COONEY, COONEY DESIGN

PHOTOGRAPHER: MONTY SOUNGPRADITH,
OPEN IMAGE STUDIO

CONTRIBUTORS: PHYLIS CROOK, '63, RN

JAMI NININGER '87, DNP, RN

PAT SKUNDA '72, '10, '14, MS, RN

DEANNA STEWART, MOUNT CARMEL FOUNDATION



2023 SCHOLARSHIP AND DONOR RECOGNITION DINNER CONNECTS STUDENTS WITH BENEFACTORS

MCCN hosted its annual Scholarship and Donor Recognition Dinner on September 14, 2023. At last year's event, 225 scholarships were provided. The total awarded was \$542,737, with \$483,737 coming directly through the Mount Carmel Foundation.



MOUNT CARMEL
College of Nursing





At the event, Foundation President Deanna Stewart announced the establishment of the President's Excellence Fund, for which a generous donor provided \$20,000 in seed funding. "The fund may be used at the president's discretion to invest in his highest emerging priorities," said Stewart. "We're excited to see how this philanthropic support will be used to advance and innovate nursing education and student experiences and achievement."



If you would like to support scholarships for MCCN students, please contact Alison Jones, Mount Carmel Foundation Senior Development Officer, allison.jones@mchs.com.



**SIMULATED
CLINICAL
LEARNING
SPACES
EXPANDED
AND
UPGRADED**



The College has completed an expansion and upgrade of its skills lab facilities. The lab now has more space, additional beds, more patient manikins, electronic charting technology, and a medication/supply room; equipment and environmental structures that emulate the patient care setting.

“We’re committed to providing a great learning experience in a relevant space that mirrors, as closely as possible, a real-world nursing environment, said Academic Program Director Samantha Schmitz, PhD, MSN, RN.”

Jami Nininger ’87, DNP, RN, Interim Academic Dean, added, “Learning in a setting that emulates the practice environment allows students to develop knowledge, skills, and behaviors associated with the professional nursing role while learning to use and troubleshoot relevant equipment that must be mastered in a care-delivery encounter.

The recent expansion and upgrades were supported by both the Mount Carmel Foundation and the Mount Carmel Health System. The Foundation provided grant funding and the health system supplied equipment and supplies, including hospital beds and select health-care equipment including a Pyxis medication dispensing system.

New and upgraded technology and equipment in the skills lab will foster learner competency in nursing practices associated with the use of patient care technologies such as the electronic medical record and medication dispensing systems as a foundation for supporting quality and safety in patient care. The expanded and updated resources support the College’s ongoing efforts to prepare practice-ready graduates by exposing students to learning in environments where the context of care delivery aligns with real-world settings.



“Often, we provide a ‘perfect’ experience for students,” said Schmitz. “That’s not what they may see in a clinical environment. It’s important for the students to think through what supplies they need and get those supplies themselves. The skills lab now better mimics a real-world experience.”

“These enhancements to the simulated clinical experience for our students will help them expand their skills and clinical judgment and have both more confidence and competence when they begin practice,” said Nininger.

“Using technological, simulated clinical experiences and teaching tools in learning environments that emulate real-world situations and accommodates the needs of the

diverse students who attend MCCN, supports the College’s mission to prepare graduates as competent and compassionate nurses and nurse leaders,” said Nininger. “In turn, graduates are prepared to tackle healthcare’s greatest challenges and enhance care quality, safety and desired patient outcomes.”

“We’re thrilled with these upgrades and appreciate the faculty and staff that helped make this happen, including Lab Coordinator Samantha Steenson, BSN, RN; Senior Director of Finance Gina Hendricks, MBA; Compliance and Safety Director Mitch Joseph-Kemplin, among others. Our partners at the Foundation and the health system also were invaluable in getting this accomplished,” said Schmitz.



COLLEGE QUICK READ

Alumni commemorative quilt now displayed in student lounge

Due to a renovation of the Wilson Room Chapel, the Alumni Quilt that was displayed in this space was moved to a prominent area for display in the student lounge. The quilt was created by former staff member Carol Graham in 1993 to commemorate the change from Mount Carmel School of Nursing to Mount Carmel College of Nursing. The quilt features the names of staff and faculty as well as a central display of former College leaders.



A re-dedication reception was held on Monday, November 27, 2023, and was attended by students, current and former faculty and staff, and MCSN and MCCN alumni. Carol's husband and daughter also attended the event to honor Carol, a prize-winning quilter.

Intelligent.com ranks MCCN among best in U.S.

In its annual assessment, Intelligent.com, a trusted resource for higher education program rankings and planning, has honored Mount Carmel College of Nursing with the Best Online Colleges in Ohio for 2024.

Intelligent.com institutional rankings are deemed the benchmark of academic evaluations for online and hybrid programs. An exclusive methodology is used to rank each institution on a scale from 0 to 100 across six categories. Evaluations are based on quantitative measures such as academic quality, graduation rate, affordability, ROI, and student resources. With top picks that are highly-regarded, affordable, and offer the tools and resources students need to successfully graduate and excel in their fields.

Intelligent.com provides unbiased research to help students make informed decisions about higher education programs. The website offers curated guides that include the best degree programs as well as information about financial aid, internships, and even study strategies. With comprehensive, user-friendly guides and hundreds of program rankings, Intelligent.com is a trusted source among students and prospective students. To learn more, please visit www.intelligent.com.



ASCENT PROGRAM PROVIDES NEW, STREAMLINED PATHWAY TO BSN

Launched earlier this academic year, the MCCN Ascent Program enables students with the right coursework to complete a BSN degree in as little as five semesters. For Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN) or students who have earned prior science and humanities credits, Ascent provides a timely option for advancing to a higher degree, and brings more career, job and earning potential to graduates.

“Ascent supports those students who have already earned some science and humanities college credit or those who are already LPNs an ability to earn their BSN degree in as little as five semesters” says Program Director Samantha Schmitz, PhD, MSN, RN.

“LPNs, who are highly sought after now, post-COVID, can advance quickly to a BSN through this program,” said Jami Nininger ’87, DNP, RN, Interim Academic Dean. “Giving the critical shortage of nurses, which only is increasing,



we're committed to having educational and professional development pathways that support advancement in nursing and bring more nurses to the profession."

"One of the most appealing aspects of the program is that it allows students to get all their general education credits completed, and then come to Mount Carmel for all of the clinical courses," said Schmitz. "The ability of MCCN to launch this program reflects an ongoing commitment to supporting the nursing workforce through high-quality pathways for timely degree completion," she added.

The Ascent program is a blend of fully online, hybrid and campus-based courses, supporting schedule balance during the program of study. Most courses are eight weeks in length.

"Students can expect to be on campus for class, lab, or clinical two to three times per week, depending on the course and term," said Dr. Schmitz. Advanced notice for classes, labs and clinical days and times supports students' planning and success.

The first Ascent cohort began their course of study in January. Enrollment for the Summer term, which begins in May, is open now.

Learn more about the program, its advantages, and admission requirements by visiting www.mccn.edu or calling or emailing the Admissions Office at 614-234 4CON, admissions@mccn.edu.

LPN TO BSN- WHY EARN A BSN?

- **More earning potential** – On average, RNs with a BSN earn \$86,520 as compared to RNs with an ADN whose average salary is \$72,000 and those RNs holding a diploma (\$65,000 annual salary) 2020 National Nursing Workforce Survey.
- **More job opportunities** – Holding a BSN opens up opportunities for position advancement in leadership and specialized roles in nursing; many of which provide salary advancement.
- **Career advancement** – The BSN curriculum prepares nurses with a broader knowledge and skill foundation promoting opportunities for advanced education and degrees in addition to specialized roles.
- **Impact - Quality care for patients** – Ongoing research demonstrates that the quality of patient care and patient outcomes correlate to higher levels of nursing education.

Congrats!

Faculty Promotions

Lou Ann Hartley, Ph.D., RN, NEA-BC, PAHM,
Evidence-based Practice (CH), to Professor

Kimberly Knox, MSN, RN, to Assistant Professor

Christina Padrutt, DNP, APRN, AGPCNP-C, CNE, EBP-C,
EBP(CH), to Associate Professor

Samantha Schmitz, PhD, MSN, RN, to Associate Professor

Patty Severt, DNP, RN, EBP-C, to Associate Professor

Aimee Shea, MPH, RDN, CCMS, LD, to Associate Professor

Barbara Welch, DNP, MS, RN, EBP-C, to Associate
Professor

Faculty Scholarship

Abbott, M. & Nininger, J. (2023). An investigation of replication practice in nursing education research. *Nursing Education Perspectives*, 44(3), 159-163.

Abbott, M., Fankouser, K., & Nininger, J. (2023). Top-ranked nursing programs: Curricula content analysis. *Journal of Nursing Education*, 62 (4), 1-3.

E. Strand and A.H. Sturgis, editors. (2023). *Star Wars: Essays Exploring a Galaxy Far, Far Away*. Vernon Press.

Hann, N., Shew, D., & Nininger, J. (2023). The student immersion as a foundation for academic success: Study habits, planning and accountability - Oh my! Podium Presentation. Otterbein University Westerville, Ohio. AICUO Collaborative Conference.



Hartley, L.A. (2023, May 3). Using Evidence to identify Teaching that improves Student Competencies. [Poster Presentation]. Mount Carmel Health System 9th Annual Interprofessional Research and Evidence-Based Practice Day, Columbus, OH, United States.

Hartley, L.A. (May, 2023). Using Evidence to Identify Teaching Strategies to Improve Student Competencies. Poster Presentation at MCHS Research and EBP Day.

Hixenbaugh, M., O'Handley, H., Hill, L., Rettig, B., & Patrick, T. (2023). Assessing Virtual Simulation Success Using ATI Proctored Exams [National Nurse Educator Summit], San Antonio, Texas.

Hoffman, A. (2023). When hate comes to campus-the psychology of hate: Responding to bias, bigotry and racism, The Peace Chronicle, Winter 2023.

McDaniel, K.M., & Strand, E. (Eds.). (2023). Pottiversity: Essays Exploring the World of Harry Potter. McFarland & Company, Inc.

OHandley, H., Bowers-Abbot, M., Hixenbaugh, M., Sutherland, K., Urquhart, K., & Welch, B. (2023). Best poster presentation: Integration and evaluation of formalized debriefing training for faculty that use simulation in their courses.

Loscko, K. (2023, March). Quantifying Student Engagement in Interactive Physiology Labs. Virtual podium presentation presented at the Regional Project Kaleidoscope Regional Network Meeting, North Carolina.



MOUNT CARMEL DUBLIN TOPPING OFF CEREMONY



Dublin Mayor and MCCN alumna Jane Fox addresses attendees at the Mount Carmel Dublin Topping Off event.



Diane Doucette, MBA, RN

The final beam of Mount Carmel Dublin was placed on November 13, 2023, marking a significant milestone in the development of the new campus. Health system leaders and colleagues, public officials, community members, and construction partners celebrated by signing the final beam and then witnessing its placement atop the hospital.

Planning and work behind the scenes are active and ongoing, according to the president of Mount Carmel Dublin, Diane Doucette, who also leads the health system's New Albany, St. Ann's and Lewis Center campuses. "We're excited to bring more access and choice to health care to this community," said Doucette. "The east side of Dublin is in need of service and we're meeting that need. This is one of the fastest-growing areas in central Ohio. More than a half million people live within a 15-minute radius of the new campus."

Doucette notes that Mount Carmel has seen a warm welcome from the Dublin community. "It's a great partnership," she said. Brian Pierson, Mount Carmel's vice president of Community Health and Well-being (formerly Outreach) is involved now in Dublin's community health care needs assessment, looking for opportunities to fill gaps in service and care with Mount Carmel resources and caregivers. "Mount Carmel is proud to

participate in a multi-stakeholder plan explicitly constructed to serve all Dublin residents, especially those dealing with socioeconomic challenges. This progressive strategy aligns beautifully with our Catholic mission," said Pierson.

In late Fall 2023, a kick-off with the Mount Carmel Health team was held, as well as activation planning with 12 different groups across the health system including, acute care, population health, Mount Carmel Health Plan, and Mount Carmel Medical Group, among others. "We're developing plans to ensure the successful integration of all elements of care from our system into Mount Carmel Dublin," said Doucette. One hundred twenty-five people are working in the dozen groups involved in activation planning.

The campus, which is scheduled to open in Spring 2025, will include a hospital and medical offices, operating rooms, intervention cardiology and catheterization labs, endoscopy suites, emergency department, and diagnostic services.

Community health and well-being amenities also are included in campus plans. "We've gathered ideas from 100 clinicians to help us assure this campus provides our physicians and nurses exactly what they need to deliver the safe, high-quality care for which Mount Carmel is known," said Doucette. "I'm looking forward to bringing our brand to Dublin, so this community can be acquainted with and depend on Catholic healthcare from our system."

The design of the new campus places a distinctive cross and chapel at its center, which Doucette describes as the anchor of the facility.



“Success on Day One at Mount Carmel Dublin will see our patients, families, caregivers and colleagues having an exquisite experience, working as a team, with our mission and Catholic healthcare full display,” Doucette added.

MOUNT CARMEL FOUNDATION’S \$5 MILLION CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UNDERWAY FOR DUBLIN CAMPUS

“As a health ministry with a charitable mission, we measure impact differently. We always have. This is the very intersection of healthcare and philanthropy: a place where lives are saved, families are changed and we continue to strive towards an even brighter, more caring future.” – Lorraine Lutton President and CEO Mount Carmel Health System.

Each year there are potentially thousands of people in our Dublin area community who don’t access the care they need when they need it, for reasons including proximity, affordability, awareness, convenience and because of outdated expectations of what modern care experiences look like. Mount Carmel aims to change that.

The new campus is designed to enhance preventive care and close the health care gaps that people tend to fall through. The goal is a campus that is beautifully integrated into the natural surroundings; a place where providers have state-of-the-art technology and patients can access personalized care in a safe, peaceful environment.

The Dublin campus provides the place for Mount Carmel to bring its uniquely compassionate, Catholic healthcare ministry to the northwest corridor.

Philanthropic dollars are needed to launch this initiative, accelerate the timeline and take this project from an idea to reality. The compassion and excellent care are the standard; however, the capacity and speed in which we build the health compass relies directly on community and donor support.

“We’re excited to have a role in supporting the development and construction at Mount Carmel Dublin through our capital campaign which is underway,” said Foundation President Deanna Stewart. “Philanthropy offers each of us the rare opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others right now and for future generations.”

Honorary Chair for the capital campaign is Bishop Earl K. Fernandes. It is co-chaired by Monsignor Joseph Hendricks and Corrine Burger.

For more information about the campaign, visit mountcarmelfoundation.org or contact Lynn Weita at lweita@mchs.com.



DONOR
SPOT
LIGHT
JOHN MATCHETT

JOHN MATCHETT HONORS 40-YEAR PARTNER WITH SCHOLARSHIPS

Losing his long-time partner Michael Misch in July, 2019, to heart disease was the catalyst for John Matchett to honor Michael's life with scholarships for MCCN students. In 2020, he established the Michael Misch Memorial Scholarship fund, which has provided scholarships to help at least one MCCN student in each of the past three years.

The relationship with Mount Carmel began much earlier than the establishment of the scholarship. Twenty years of Michael's battle with heart disease found John and Michael in Mount Carmel hospitals for care and treatment countless times. Bypass surgery, stents, fluid drainage, and other interventions became almost routine. Visits to Mount Carmel West (MCW) and Mount Carmel East (MCE) were commonplace in Michael's later years.

"He was always impressed with the nurses at Mount Carmel," said Matchett. "He knew they both cared for him and about him. He was sort of a 'frequent flyer' so the nurses really got to know him. During one hospital stay, in the coronary care unit at MCE, which at the time had nine beds, I asked him if he realized he'd been in at least half of the beds at one time or another!"

"We loved to travel and he'd obviously shared that with his nurses at one point, Matchett added. "One of the nurses would draw pictures of palm trees and tropical settings on cards with messages of encouragement. It really cheered him, gave him something to look forward to, and demonstrated that they cared about him as a person, not simply as a patient."

Travel was important to both John and Michael. They took trips to Hawaii, even staying there for the entire month of January in some years. They also travelled to Europe and the Caribbean. Las Vegas also was a favorite destination for Michael.

Toward the end of Michael's life, when travel was a bit more difficult, he and John had deep conversations about life, focusing mostly on the positive aspects of their experiences. "Michael was successful in his life and career, having worked at Battelle and risen through the ranks there. He confided in me that his greatest regret in life was not getting a college degree," said Matchett.

Up until that point, John had no idea that earning a degree was an unfulfilled desire for Michael, who came from a large family and lacked the financial resources to pay for college earlier in his life. "At the time of his death, I really needed to do something. Michael was a good person. He really made the world a better place by being here. He would want to help students by taking some of the edge off money needed for school."

Combining gratitude for the excellent care from Mount Carmel with a desire to help students pay for college made funding a scholarship for MCCN students a perfect way to honor Michael's life.

"I have the opportunity to meet the students who have benefited from Michael's scholarship at the annual Scholarship Dinner and Donor Recognition Dinner," said Matchett. "In 2022, the student who received our scholarship told me he intended to be a coronary care nurse. And I thought to myself, he is going to be one of the people who would have cared for Michael. It was a full circle moment."

NOMINATIONS ARE ALWAYS OPEN FOR DISTINGUISHED MOUNT CARMEL ALUMNI AND RISING STAR AWARDS



We invite you to nominate a member of the Mount Carmel Alumni for one of these two awards that will be presented at the 2024 Mount Carmel Alumni Association Annual Meeting and Homecoming: Distinguished Alumni Award and Rising Star Award.

Please nominate those special alumni by visiting <https://www.mccn.edu/alumni> and clicking in the column on the left "Distinguished Mount Carmel Alumnus Awards."

All nominees and their nominators will be notified of the outcome.

CRITERIA FOR DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

The following criteria should be used as a guide for describing a nominee's qualifications for the award. The contributions may include, but are not limited to, exceptional achievement and significant contribution in the following areas:

- **Professional Achievement** - Nominee has demonstrated professional recognition, professional accomplishments, and/or significant contributions to the nursing profession; nominee has demonstrated outstanding leadership in the field of nursing. The nominee reflects honor to the College of Nursing in pursuing their professional activities.
- **Sphere of Influence** - (local, state, national, or international) - Contributions made by the nominee have had a broad influence beyond the scope of that person's place of employment.

- **Community Service** - (local, state, national, or international) - The nominee has made significant humanitarian contributions to the community, greatly impacted the community through their actions, and/or is involved in a variety of service initiatives.

Selection is also based on alumni who have shown continued interest in and support for the College, and who exemplify the Core Values of Mount Carmel College of Nursing: academic excellence, respect, compassion, social responsibility, and diversity. In summary, the nominee possesses such integrity and stature that the faculty, staff, students, and alumni of the College of Nursing can take pride in, and are inspired by their recognition.



CRITERIA FOR RISING STAR ALUMNI AWARD

This award is presented to a member of the Mount Carmel College of Nursing alumni who has graduated with an undergraduate degree within the last 10 years. The following criteria should be used as a guide for describing a nominee's qualifications for the award. The contributions may include, but are not limited to, exceptional achievement and significant contribution in the following areas:

- **Professional Achievement** - Nominee has demonstrated professional recognition, professional accomplishments, and/or significant contributions to the nursing profession; nominee has demonstrated outstanding leadership in the field of nursing. The nominee reflects honor to the College of Nursing in pursuing their professional activities.

- **Sphere of Influence** - (local, state, national, or international) - Contributions made by the nominee have had a broad influence beyond the scope of that person's place of employment.

- **Community Service** - (local, state, national, or international) - The nominee has made significant humanitarian contributions to the community, greatly impacted the community through their actions, and/or is involved in a variety of service initiatives. Selection is also based on alumni who have shown continued interest in and support for the College, and who exemplify the Core Values of Mount Carmel College of Nursing: academic excellence, respect, compassion, social responsibility, and diversity.

GREETINGS FROM YOUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Alumni UP

Alumni Vision

The vision of the Mount Carmel Alumni Association is to support Mount Carmel College of Nursing through philanthropic, networking, and mentoring initiatives.

Follow us on Facebook

by visiting www.facebook.com/mcalumniassoc

Send Us Your Email Address

MCCN and the Mount Carmel Alumni Association are sending information via email. Send your email address to alumniaffairs@mccn.edu or visit our website to stay connected.



Has your name changed since graduation?

If so, please don't forget to notify us so we can update your educational record and your contact information. Please contact Maggie Miller-Rea, coordinator, Records & Registration, at 614.234.3959 or by email at registrar@mccn.edu.

Alumni Association Dues Payment Instructions

We have two ways to pay your 2024 membership dues: You may mail us a check to Mount Carmel College of Nursing, Office of Alumni Affairs, 127 South Davis Ave., Columbus, OH 43222-1504 or, if you prefer the convenience of a credit card, simply use your mobile phone camera to scan the appropriate Square (QR code) below and follow instructions there.

Annual Membership plus fee
\$41.50 total



Lifetime Membership plus fee
\$257.75 total



Get Involved!

dates

Please stay in touch with the Alumni Affairs office about any changes in your contact information as soon as you can so you don't miss any news! Also, please let us know your career path since graduation so we can include it in an upcoming issue of *the LAMP* or our online newsletter *AlumNews*.

**Note Our NEW
Email address!**
alumniaffairs@mccn.edu

Your College Email Address

Please note: All College email addresses will now be deactivated six months after a student graduates.

Meet your MCAA Board members!

President: Pat Skunda '72, '10, '14, MS, RN

Vice President: Open

Secretary: Jami Nininger '87, DNP, RN

Treasurer: Suzanne Martin '66, JD, RN

Members at Large:

Frieda Gill '91, '97, '09, MS, RN AHN-ED

Karen Powell '82, BSN, RN

Jody Gill Rocha '08, '10, MS, RN AHN-ED

Celeste Schmelzer '79, MSN RN

Ginny Shaffer '93, '09, '20, MS, LSN, RN, IBCLC

Angela Snider '10, '14, MS, RN, APRN-BC

Ex-Officio: Mount Carmel Foundation

President Deanna Stewart





2023 Homecoming Celebration **HONORS GRADS** from '70, '73

The MCAA Annual Meeting Homecoming Celebration was held on September 30, 2023, at the Grand Event Center by the Courtyard by Marriott in Grandview. Alumni Board members were on hand to greet the alumni as they arrived at the venue.

This year, the Class of 1973, celebrating their 50th reunion since graduation, was honored. Graduates of the Class of 1970, who were unable to gather two years ago due to the COVID pandemic, also were honored.

Alumni were able to view a great selection of silent auction items that were donated by various organizations, businesses, alumni, and alumni family members. There were 53 items from 37 donors. There was a 50/50 cash raffle and a Nurse's Quilt Raffle. The quilt was designed and donated by Barb Wiswell and Mary Lou Jones. All proceeds from the cash and quilt raffles and silent auction items go to the MCAA Scholarship Fund. The MCAA was able to award 14 scholarships to current MCCN students this year.

President Pat Skunda '72, '10, '14 opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and asking Jane Dickson '73, '08, '11 to lead alumni in prayer before dinner.

MCCN President Dr. Todd Ambrosia, MCHS CEO Lorraine Lutton, Mount Carmel Foundation President Deanna Stewart, and MCHS Marketing Manager Lori Berkheimer addressed the alumni and gave updates on the College, health system, philanthropy, and marketing strategies.



Angie Miceli Hoff, Ginny Nealon Shaffer, Class of 1993



Pat Skunda, Peg Ashbrook Alexis, and Kathy Davis, Class of 1973



Natalie Hanners, Class of 1968



Dr. Todd Ambrosia, MCCN President, and alumna Joan Gockenback Short '48

MCAA Board members were introduced. They included Secretary Jami Nininger '87, Treasurer Suzanne Martin '66, and at-large members Jody Gill Rocha' 08, '10, Angela Snider '10 '14, Frieda Gill '90 '97 '09, Celeste Schmelzer '79, Ginny Shaffer '93 '09 '20, and Karen Powell '82.

The oldest alumni attending was Joan Gockenback Short, celebrating her 75th anniversary, having graduated in 1948. She proudly showed everyone her nursing pin and entrusted it to the MCAA. It will be placed in the Alumni Archives display in the College Library. She was thankful for her training and memories of the school. She had some advice for current students and staff on nursing care. She received a well-deserved standing ovation.



Class of 1973, standing L-R: Peg Alexis, Kay Schroer, Lynne Kunkle, Kathy Davis, Sherry Merrick and Marci Brushwood. Seated L-R: Sharol Herr, Rose McCoy, Martha Dittiacur, Jane Dickson and Jill Wallace



Class of 1963, standing L-R: Judy Mart MacNamara, Patsy Fannon Chamberlain, Mary Lou Ogle Rauch, Nan Shoup McConnaughey, Christy Stare Coleman, Mary Jane Bradley, Jacque Lippert Ziarko, Denise Rish Sever, Paula Slagle Compher and Phyllis Woods Follrod. Seated L-R: Lois Rey Bibart, Peggy Horvath, Elna "Pat" Winslow Ruck, Phylis Motz Crook, Patricia Binkiewicz Reinhart, Mary Rodocker, Jeanette Bower Heilman, Eleanor Hagerty Kennedy and Judy Rebhan Borowitz



Class of 1970, standing L-R: Mary Mertens Schreck, Carolyn Mattingly Steffl, Mary Ann Crocco Graham, Judith Snyder Sayre, Lois Pojman Welch, Janet Grigsby Cox, Krista Weir Ball, Pamela Haynes Baldauf and Anne Stoffel Schaumleffel. Seated L-R: Julia Benner Perry, Nancy Payne Anders, Kathleen Jordan Bullock, Josette Larick Johnson, M. Lynn Kifer Wiseman, Linda Loeffert Jones and Janet Dalpiaz Burkhart



From the Class of 1970, L-R: Carolyn Mattingly Steffl, Julia Benner Perry, Lois Pojman Welch, Linda Loeffert Jones. Lynn Kifer Wiseman, and Krista Weir Ball



Honor Class Spotlights



**Peggy "Peg"
(Ashbrook) Alexis '73**

What is your favorite memory of the MCAA 2023 Homecoming event?

My favorite memory from the 2023 Homecoming event was reconnecting with my classmates who I haven't

seen in years. We talked about our families and memories of years ago!

What was the highlight of your education/training at Mount Carmel?

The highlight of my education/training at Mount Carmel School of Nursing was to think about my patients like they were a member of my family. I think that's why all my years working in chronic hemodialysis ended up being so rewarding. We got to really know our patients and their families over many years.

What lessons/learnings from Mount Carmel have served you best throughout the last 50 years, either professionally or personally?

The best lessons I learned from Mount Carmel SON throughout the last 50 years....

- We had amazing instructors who really prepared us for real life working as RNs, especially during my senior year! I had more clinical experience when I started my first job working in Cleveland than the new grads that came out of the BSN program at that institution. It took them a little longer to adjust to working in the clinical setting. I relied on what I had learned to help me get accustomed to work without an instructor checking on me because of the great instructors I had.
- We learned that you never stop learning ever!
- I remember realizing when it was time to leave working in critical care was when I attended a conference and looked at a photo of a critically ill patient in a cubicle and was asked to say what was the first thing I saw. At that time,

I named a large piece of medical equipment that took up a large part of the photo. The correct answer was "the patient." For that brief moment... I lost that focus. Getting back to focusing on my patients as an individual was my reminder of what I had learned about in school... and led to my career in hemodialysis.



**Sherry Seiter
Merrick '73**

What is your favorite memory of the MCAA 2023 Homecoming event?

My favorite memory is the introduction and speech of Joan Gockenback Short, 1949

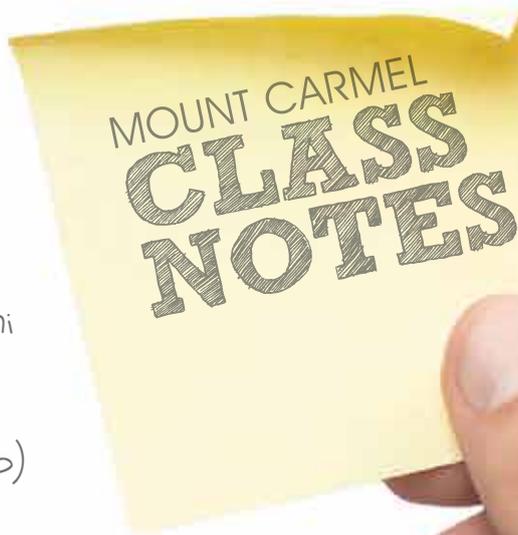
Mount Carmel graduate. What a delight to visit with friends and colleagues from 50 years ago. Oh, the stories we remembered!

What was the highlight of your education/training at Mount Carmel?

Starting clinical experience early developed our skills and laid the foundation for a successful nursing career. It was the core of many successful years as an OR nurse in hospital operating rooms around the county. Mount Carmel prepared us for jobs on day one after graduation. I was ready and was hired for OR/RR/CS nurse manager in a small hospital in Ohio for my first nursing job.

What lessons/learnings from Mount Carmel have served you best throughout the last 50 years, either professionally or personally?

- Organize your tasks - make the best use of every step (Miss Fitzpatrick)
- Observe (Miss Fisher)
- Always double-check everything



Please send your
submissions to
Class Notes to Alumni
Affairs Office
(See page 5 for info)

Lois Rey Bibart ('63) is married and lives in Galena, Ohio. She has four children, nine grandchildren, and one great grandchild. She has lived and worked in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and Ann Arbor, Michigan. She's done private duty nursing, psychiatric nursing and office nursing in those cities. When she became a full time, stay-at-home mom she was able to volunteer with several organizations. She writes, "My memories of the Mount Carmel years and my instructors, fellow students and dear friends from those days have always been precious to me. There is no doubt in my mind that there has never been a better nursing school education anywhere!"

Christy Stare Coleman ('63) is widowed and lives in Illinois for six months and in Florida for six months each year. She has four children and a bevy of grandsons. She is active in her churches and is an Extraordinary Minister of the Holy Eucharist. She says it reminds her of the days she used to help Father Dimond as he distributed communion to the hospital patients. She did not spend a lot of her time in nursing. Being home and raising children led her to a 27-year stint on her local school board and she was president of the Illinois Association of School Boards. She shares, "As an octogenarian I feel very fortunate to be able to write this. I am fit. I play golf frequently, play cards, travel, and go to my grandsons' events. It has been a good run. Hopefully it will continue with the good Lord's help."

Jeanette Bower Heilman ('63) lives in Fremont, Ohio. She has three children, six grandchildren, one foster, and eight great grandchildren.

Denise Rish Sever ('63) is married, lives in Denver, Colorado, and has four children. She has four grandchildren, one of whom is deceased. When her children were grown, she became a certified drug/alcohol counselor and worked in that field for ten years. She also spent ten years in the visiting nurse field, serving the elderly population by running flu shot and foot care clinics. She volunteered in her community and was president of a women's stock club and president of The Denver Assistance League. Her favorite has always been the study God's word. She has been attending or leading Bible study groups for over 50 years.

CLASS NOTES cont.

Jacque Lippert Ziarko ('63) is married and lives in North Canton, Ohio. She is officially retired but is a registered volunteer with the Stark County Public Health Department. She has an active nursing license. She keeps busy playing golf, attending the many sporting events of her three grandsons, traveling as much as possible, and has an active social life. She writes, "Being a Mount Carmel nurse has served me well and I love my 1963 classmates! We went to Mount Carmel in a 'sweet spot' in time."

Sondra Young Abernathy ('64) is widowed and lives in Worthington, Ohio. She loved her education, her friends and most of all her jobs. They were emergency room, 30 years (this was her favorite); nursing home, five years; hospice, five years; "float nurse" and taught OB and labor and delivery. She remains "very proud of my Mount Carmel education."

Pamela Haynes Baldauf ('70) is married and lives on a farm in northwestern Ashland County in Ohio. She has three children and four grandchildren. She retired in 2014 after working in ICU/CCU units and physicians' offices. She has enjoyed updating her farmhouse and visiting family in Florida. Grandchildren's sporting and school events are things she likes to attend.

Anne Stoffel Schaumleffel ('70) is married and lives in Westerville, Ohio. She retired from Riverside Methodist Hospital in 2019 after 30 years in labor and delivery.

Martha Ervin Dittiacur ('73) is divorced and lives in Grove City, Ohio. She has one child. She is in two book clubs and likes to travel. She has taken watercolor classes and is now drawing at the Columbus Cultural Arts Center. She retired from Mount Carmel in 2015. She has been the care manager of the peripheral vascular unit at Mount Carmel East. She finished her career with the admissions team. She writes, "I grew from a naïve teenager to a leader."

We love hearing
your news!

Lynne Kunkle ('73) lives in Marion, Ohio. Her career has included 33 years at Marion General Hospital. While there she was nurse manager of telemetry as well as head nurse in same day surgery and recovery room and endo case manager. She also worked at Quantum Health for 12 years as clinical operations manager.

Sherry Seiter Merrick ('73) lives in Post Mills, Vermont. Her career journey began in 1969 as an OR tech trainee in Marion, Ohio. She worked there during her student days, both in high school and Mount Carmel School of Nursing, during holiday and summer breaks. She writes, "After such a valuable start in the OR, my career path continued in scrubs and behind a mask for most of my 50 years of nursing." Her locations included Mount Vernon, Ohio; Tucson, Arizona; Boston and Weymouth, Massachusetts; White River Junction, Vermont; Hanover and Lebanon, New Hampshire. She passed her FFA Single Engine flight test in 1974. She considers her involvement with the peace movement an important aspect of her life. She was co-leader of the first citizen to citizen Peace Leadership Exchange with the Soviet Union in 1984. She toured an OR in what is now Belarus. She shares, "We were given the rare opportunity to speak with doctors and nurses there. Considering it was the height of the Cold War, this was an exceptional experience." In the 2000's she has worked half-time to pursue her interest in the arts that included producing events and organizing dance tours and cultural exchanges with Norway and Russia. She has organized a home rebuild following the destructive Katrina and Rita hurricanes. She has also been fundraising to support Ukrainian refugees. She is grateful to "our teachers at Mount Carmel for providing an excellent nursing education."

Angie Miceli Hoff ('93) is married and lives in New Albany, Ohio. She has three children. Her eldest son graduated from MCCN in 2023, 30 years after her graduation. She has her BSN and MSN from Capital University. She did some clinical instruction and teaching at MCCN. She has a post master's FNP from Otterbein University and a DNP from University of Alabama. She founded At Your Door Visiting Healthcare Services in 2015. This company was acquired by National Church Residences in August 2023. She continues to run At Your Door as vice president of primary care.

Scott Elder Oman ('10) (formerly known as Jeremy Scott Elder) graduated from The Ohio State University College of Nursing in 2021 (MS) and 2023 (DNP). He is currently working as a NP in the emergency and urgent care departments at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus.

IN MEMORIAM

Mount Carmel College of Nursing and its alumni honor the following graduates who have passed away and extend our sympathy to their family and friends.

- Lola Zimmerman Davis-Edwards — Class of 1944
- Marjorie Sheeran Hennessey — Class of 1944, mother of Ellen Hennessey Stacklin — Class of 1989
- Sr. Michael Marie Williamson CSC — Class of 1947
- Sr. Jane Rochard CSC — Class of 1948
- Mary Catherine Kohls Yetzer — Class of 1949
- Emma June Richardson Todd — Class of 1952
- Mary Bowes Teach — Class of 1956
- Suzann Furney — Class of 1958
- Marilou Wunderlin Clouse — Class of 1962
- Christina "Chris" Lynne Baker — Class of 1970
- Dorothy McGlone Wolff — Class of 1984
- Virginia A. Fleshman Brokamp — Class of 1993

We also acknowledge the loss and honor the memory of those whose lives have touched the Mount Carmel family.

John O'Handley, MD
Mother of Laurel Romine Sayer '79



We say farewell to Dr. John "Jack" O' Handley, beloved by all.

Tell us what you're up to!

NAME _____

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GRAD YEAR _____

WHAT'S NEW WITH YOU? NEW BABY? NEW JOB OR PROMOTION?

EARN ANOTHER DEGREE? _____

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Mount Carmel College of Nursing
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