

# Alumni News



Saint Marys School of Nursing

Summer, 2008

## COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings to all Alumni,

The year 2007 was a fairly quiet one in terms of Saint Marys School of Nursing Alumni activities. The 2007 reunion was successful with 154 graduates returning from the classes of 47, 52, 57, 62, and 67. Many of the returning alumni had participated in the Centennial Celebration in 2006. Catherine Ashpole Lacy represented the 50 year class of 1957 and recited the "Day God Created a Nurse" which she wrote as a student. Sister Generose Gervais presented information on the Poverella Fund.

The work in the Memorabilia Room slowed this past year as many people spend winter these days South. A good thing this past winter as we had a cold and snowy season. It continues to be our goal to update the Memorabilia Room preserving the letters, photos, text books, and other items of interest. The proceeds from Sincere et Constanter benefit this project.

I receive emails with Alumni offering their old text books. Unless the books are prior to 1930, you can toss them. We are interested in any correspondence you might have had with any of the Sister in the form of handwritten notes or letters. Thank you for thinking of the Alumni.

The recognition project of the student nurse is at a standstill. We met last fall and were informed that Mayo would not allow a statue on Saint Marys Hospital grounds. Instead we could consider other forms of recognition. The committee discussed an etched glass globe with our nursing pin. This would be placed in the corridor of the hospital near the old taxi entrance and the hospital's memorabilia location. We have not heard anything since this last meeting. We will continue to pursue this recognition and keep you informed to our progress.

I'm traveling still and this past year found me back in United Arab Emirates following our Reunion. Also visited Budapest again, Croatia, Georgia, and Bulgaria. These countries are still war torn struggling to maintain their democracy. This June found me on a 16 day river cruise of Russia. The first country I have visited that so few people speak English. Glad to be home once again. I usually travel alone so if any of you are looking for a traveling companion just let me know. My suitcase is always ready.

This year's Reunion will be celebrating the Classes of 1948, 1953, 1958, 1963, and 1968. If any assistance is needed for addresses of classmates or other information please contact me as I'm happy to assist in anyway I can.

Sister Mary Brigh loved poetry and throughout her lifetime she wrote some of her own. Sister's poetry is now in book form and is available for the Alumni to purchase. This information is located in the newsletter. The book will also be available for purchase at the Reunion this Fall.

Thanks to all of you who email and send notes with greetings or information regarding classmates. The address changes are much appreciated, keep them coming.

A safe journey to those traveling to the Fall Reunion. May your lives be filled with blessings of good health, family, and friends.

Sincerely,  
Monica Mellem Van Kirk '59  
812 Memorial Parkway SW  
Rochester, MN 55902  
monicavk@charter.net  
507-289-1741

## ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

The general meeting of Saint Marys School of Nursing Alumni Association was called to order by president Monica Van Kirk at the annual alumni banquet. The minutes of the 2006 annual meeting were read with one correction noted. It should read a "commemorative memorial", not statue. The minutes of the Board meeting of September 6, 2007 were read and approved. Virginia Simons Wentzel '59 gave the treasurer's report in the absence of treasurer, Mary Kennedy Price. As of September 2007:

|                               |               |             |
|-------------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Vanguard                      | 300.90 shares | \$9,135.11  |
| Well Fargo                    |               |             |
| Savings                       |               | \$1,740.46  |
| Checking                      |               | \$9,327.85  |
| Mayo Credit Union             |               |             |
| Savings                       |               | \$2,205.30  |
| 1 Year CD                     |               | \$3,859.64  |
| 3 Year CD                     |               | \$13,994.54 |
| Total                         |               | \$40,262.90 |
| Total all accounts            |               | \$40,262.90 |
| Sincere et Constanter Account |               | \$5,246.22  |

### New Business

Election of Officers-Nominations were asked from the floor for President, Vice-President, secretary and treasurer. There were none. The present board has agreed to serve: President-Monica Mellem Van Kirk '59, Vice-president-Brenda Rizzo Rossman '67, Secretary-Virginia Simons Wentzel '59, and Treasurer-Mary Kennedy Price '66.

### Old Business

Virginia Wentzel '59 commented on the book Sincere et Constanter, The Story of Saint Marys School of Nursing. The proceeds of the book will be used to update the Memorabilia Room in Marian Hall.

Monica gave a report on how the proceeds of the banquet are spent: The celebrating 50 year class receive complementary lunch and banquet. We also purchase corsages for the 50 year class. Flowers (a red and white rose) representing deceased and living members are used at the Sunday Mass as part of the offertory gifts. The Sunday Farewell Coffee is absorbed by the Alumni

Association. In addition we request funds from the Mayo Clinic to assist in covering the cost of the reunion. Past years the Clinic has contributed \$3,500. The Clinic contributed \$35,000 for our 2006 celebration. This money was used for The Friday night Gonda event (except for the wine), all printed materials, banners, totes, and pens. The income from reservations for 2006 was \$55,447 which paid for the banquet, 50 years class lunch and banquet, wine at the Friday night event, Sunday morning brunch, musicians, tiles, tour buses, History Center of Olmsted County, CD of the Triple Trio, class photos, newsletter printing and postage.

We hope to continue the annual reunion until the Class of 1970 celebrates their 50th which will be in 2020.

Each year we have several hundred newsletters returned for which we pay a fee. This is becoming quite costly. Please add the Alumni to your new address change.

Last year a letter was sent to the Mayo Clinic suggesting that some type of commemorative be placed in Saint Marys Hospital in recognition of SMSN. There has been one meeting in response to the request. This committee consists of Monica Van Kirk, Brenda Rossman, Virginia Wetzel, Marilyn Fryer from the Alumni, Jane Champion, Karen Skiba (MMC Alumni Office) and one person from the Clinics Art and Design Dept. We have already been informed it will not be a statue of a student nurse in the Edith Graham Courtyard but would be placed within the hospital. We know with the Mayo Clinic's input it would be first rate and in good taste. The Clinic would fund this project.

There were many comments from the Alumni:

- would there be a Mayo Clinic without the nuns?
  - a statue of SMSN student nurse is still appropriate
  - Presbyterian Hospital In Philadelphia erected a statue of an original student nurse in uniform
  - it was felt that if we have a 2300 mailing list we should have some leverage
  - Sister Joseph Endowment Fund is for education, not to be used for something like this although many of us contributed to the fund
  - it is the consensus of those present that we pursue this vigorously
- Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,  
Virginia Simons Wentzel '59 Secretary

## REUNION DATES

September 13 and 14, 2008  
September 12 and 13, 2009  
September 11 and 12, 2010  
September 10 and 11, 2011

## REUNION PARKING & LODGING

Parking is complimentary in the Rochester City Public Ramps beginning at 5 p.m. Friday thru Sunday. Mayo and Kahler Hotel ramps charge a fee. Parking for Sunday Mass and farewell coffee is free. Alumni may park on the flat lot east of the hospital on Second Street. Parking for the handicap is available in the hospital ramp.

The Kahler Hotel is offering a lodging discount if reservations are placed by August 22. Identify yourself as SMSN Alumni. Rates this year are \$77. The hotel's phone number are: 507-282-2281 or toll free 1-800-533-1655

## SITES OF INTEREST WHILE IN ROCHESTER

Alumni may be interested in: Mayo has built a Statuary Park on the West side of the Gonda Bldg., a new historical section on the first floor of the Mayo Bldg., Saint Marys and M-K Schools of Nursing have provided artifacts of 20th century nursing on the third floor of the Plummer Bldg. The art display in the Sibens Atrium. In the Mayo Nurses Atrium of the Gonda, take time to see the Forever Caring Tableau commissioned by the Mayo Clinic to honor the nursing profession. The work was created by artist Gloria Tew and dedicated in 2003. Soldiers Field Park has a nursing memorial, The Memorabilia Room in Marian Hall is open throughout the reunion and year. Tours of the hospital will be available during and following the farewell coffee on Sunday, September 14.

## SINCERE ET CONSTRANter

The story of Saint Marys School of Nursing is in book form, authored by Virginia Simons Wentzel '59. Thank you to all the Alumni, Hospital Auxiliary and Saint Marys Sponsorship Board who supported this project. Proceeds from the book go to the alumni association. The book sells for \$17 with a \$4 charge for postage. Checks payable to SMSN Alumni Association

Mail to:

SMSN Alumni Association  
c/o Virginia Wentzel  
Siebens 533 Alumni Center  
200 SW First St. Rochester, MN 55905

## ALUMNI NOTES

Sonya Doskey Moses '56 sent the memorial program for Gertrude Hogan Wirth '35 and a donation to the Alumni.

Frances Buster Pulliam '48 wrote of her room mate Betty Taylor Wrinkle had died in 2004. She misses nursing but serves on several health boards.

Karen Messersmith Zahasky '66 sent in her change of address. "I would hate to miss an issue of the newsletter" Also offered her old text books.

Bernadette Olson Hoffman '55 wrote wanting information re her "little sis", Dorothy Kelly Sicard '56. Does anyone have information?

Druisilla (Sally) Johnson '48 enclosed an article she wrote for her Resident Association sharing her experiences in the Cadet Nurse Corps.

Terry Czaplewski Barnes '54 was sorry to have missed the 100 year celebration. Terry reads the newsletter from beginning to end.

Elizabeth Rivers '59 emailed her correct address, Liz was sorry to have missed the celebration. "How did that school ever pick people so willing to work hard for others and behave with honesty?"

Joann Schliep Woodruff '56 sent her change of address with thanks for the celebration of our 100 years.

Marge Hamilton Riter '48 called for Fall Reunion information.

Deronda Rea Hunter '56 sent her annual 4th of July postcard.

Pat White Johnson '50 arrives in Rochester from Texas each year to assist with the reunion. Pat sent two notes this year in favor of statue commemorative.

Mary Aileen Stewart '25 her nephew Bill Wentink (who is married to Barbara Lawler '66) emailed with Mary's death.

Sister Germaine '53, Vera Francis '48, Antoine, Mary Lou sent a thank you note to the Alumni for the complementary banquet.

Corinne Berg Underwood '44 "At age 85, I never dreamed I'd get to see not only some old friends but to make new ones. My 2 sisters Mary '50, Rita '54, and I had a wonderful time, one we will remember always".

Pauline Messatti Popko '58 wrote and offered her nursing pin to someone who might need a replacement.

Marguerite Daughtery Christenson '57 had a great reunion with her class of '57. "It was fun putting names on faces that were no longer familiar. I am impressed that there is a project in the process to honor the Saint Marys student nurse. It is almost impossible for me to realize that the Mayo Clinic people have forgotten our strategic and important role! Dr. Mayo should be here to educate them".

Gloria Shutte Marolt '51 sent Christmas greetings.

Sisters Generose Gervais and Lauren Weinandt sent Christmas greeting to all Alumni. "We are keeping busy and stay quite well. Each year seems to take a little toll on our lives". They sent God's choicest blessings.

Ann Shrake Kirkham '30 sent an announcement of her 100th birthday on January 29, 2008.

Mary McWhorter Colett sent an informative Holiday letter along with a photo of her a sisters Virginia McWhorter Becker '46 in their Cadet uniforms.

Marie DeMeules Southgate '61 emailed she enjoyed her reunion and read the Alumni News. Her class stared out with 104 and graduated 64. Marie offered her acceptance letter from 1958 for the Memorabilia Room.

## IN MEMORIUM

Mary Aileen Stewart '25  
Dolores Giesen Harper '33  
Marie Pound '34  
Bernice Fisichenik Reckers '34  
Suzanne Gonzalez Halling '35  
Gertrude Hogan Wirth '35  
Fern Rosenstock Risinger '39  
Evelyn "Blondie" Nystrom '40  
Leverne Peterson Cargill '41  
Letty Steichen O'Connor '46  
Donna Haug Yennie '48  
Clarice Reidt Neuman '48  
Betty Taylor Wrinkle '48  
Lucille DuRocher Mueller '50  
Margaret Klassen Kramer '51  
Alice Engibous '53  
Carol Knopf Trenkle '55  
Carol Hammen Schwei '56  
Marcia Edwards Mellang '57  
Audrey Benich Schiff '59  
Karen Klaehn Fox '60

## SPECIAL FRIENDS

Sister Lucas Chavez died June 3, 2008. Sister Lucas was head of housekeeping at Saint Marys Hospital until 1975.

## MEDICAL MISSION

Six Saint Marys School of Nursing Alumni took part in a VIMM "Dream Team" offering medical and psychological assistance to residents of Los Amigos in Chimbote, Peru. Father Jack Davis from North Dakota has had a compound in this poor community for over 30 years. Marilyn Anderson Spensley, Joan Ratchford Modjeski, Kathy Rettner Pieper, Murtice Robinson Sherek, Dorothy Graham Brama '67, and Sharon Heimer Asmus utilized their various nursing skills to make lives just a little bit easier/better in an area that has so little. No running water, no sanitation, and barely enough money to put food on the table. Yet they are some of the warmest and happiest people our Alumni have met. This class of 1961 has been close over the years and to have the opportunity to do this mission was an opportunity they didn't want to miss. They gave back in one small way to the larger world. Murt has made 14 medical missions and Murt's classmates said "Murt led and we followed". The group worked together to ease suffering, spread the gospel and spread American goodwill. The Alumni paid their own expenses. Wasn't all work, as they enjoyed trips to Macchu Picchu (Amazon). Kathy Rettner Pieper and Dorothy Graham Brama '67 are heading back to Chimbote in February.

The Class of 1961 are the ladies who entertained us with the student nurse style show during the Centennial celebration. We are proud of you.

## ATTENTION CLASS OF 1959

Our 50th is next September and we need to start planning ways of celebrating this historical event. There were many that didn't think we would graduate much less be around for 50 years. I'm hoping we will begin to gather on Friday so put this on your calendars. Email Monica with your ideas. We need addresses for: Elaine Anderson Backe, Carol Peterson Hanlon, Catherine Domeier Jenkins, Francis McKown, Grace Koprowski Meyer, Marlene Morris, Sheila Raymond Peterson, Joy Dee Thompson Robinson, Patricia Flanagan Rust, Julia Bennett Stoewer, Betty Pacholl, Margaret Aspel, Mary Otto, Nancy Paternaude all July '59. Eleanor Walsh, Kay Drew Wendt, Diane Drumm Wiczek, Janet Box, Jan Zimmell, Agnes Williams, Patricia Connors, Yvonne Erickson from the October class. Please send them if you have any of these.

## SISTER MARY BRIGH'S BOOK

A compilation of poetry, Gifts of her Spirit, written by Sister Mary Brigh Cassidy, administrator of Saint Marys Hospital from 1949 to 1971 has recently been published. A strong administrator with significant business acumen, Sister Mary Brigh had a quiet and reflective side illustrated in the poetry she wrote throughout her lifetime.

A sampling of this multi-dimensional women's poetry has been selected for publication by Sister Lauren Weinandt, and Jane Champion.

Included in the book are early photos of Sister Mary Brigh and a brief biography describing her journey from her home in Eyota, Minnesota (including her place on the Eyota High School girls basketball team) to nursing school in Rochester to completion of an MBA from the University of Chicago to her service at Saint Marys Hospital.

The book will be available at the Fall Reunion and by mail. Send payment of \$21.30 plus \$4 postage and handling to:

Sister Lauren Weinandt  
Saint Marys Hospital  
Rochester, MN 55902

Please make checks payable to Academy of Our Lady of Lourdes and identify for the book. Profits from the book sale go to the Sisters of Saint Francis retirement fund.

### TRANSCRIPTS

Transcripts are available by writing:

Mayo Records Management  
North Warehouse 1-117  
105 5th Street NW  
Rochester, MN 55901

Your request must include your name, maiden name, year you graduated, and your current address. There's no charge for transcripts.

### WEBSITE

We have a website through the Mayo Clinic. <http://www.mayo.edu/alumni>, click on Saint Marys School of Nursing Alumni, or do a search on Google for SMSN Alumni Association. The current newsletter and Alumni information is found on the site.

### CLASS OF 1958

We have several unknown addresses for the following Alumni:

Sheilia Collins, Mary Fay Labernik, Joanne Smith Perrot, Patricia Homan, Noreen Burns, Carol Ollmann Kelly, Zaradine Slagwski, Beatrice Spenser, Audrey Edstom, Deanna Higley, Diane Thiele, Joanne Thousley, Shirley Lambertz, Rose Remerows, Bev Rehman, Mary Lou Walker. If you have any information regarding missing '58 Alumni please contact:

Catherine Kay Entwisle Bach  
3820 Pillsbury Ave.  
Minneapolis, MN 55409  
catherine3820@yahoo.com  
612-824-9395

or

Monica Van Kirk, contact information listed previously.

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

We want to keep you informed of alumni news and future dates of reunions.

Remember to include the Alumni Association of any change of addresses. You can email or mail the changes to me or to the Siebens address. Return mail and postage is costly to the Alumni.

Editor's note: Alumni News features items of interest about SMSN Alumni, as well as items about Saint Marys Hospital and Mayo Foundation. Your comments, suggestions, and news information are appreciated and should be sent to SMSN Alumni Association, Siebens 533 Mayo Alumni Center, 200 SW 1st Street, Rochester, MN 55905.

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**Is A Correction Needed?**

If your Alumni News was incorrectly addressed, please check the appropriate space below, make any needed correction next to the mailing label at the right and return it to Saint Marys Alumni Association, Siebens 533 Mayo Alumni Center, 200 SW 1st Street, Rochester, MN 55905.

My name was misspelled

My address was wrong

I received more than one copy

(enclose mailing label from both copies)

*the year I graduated*

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Siebens 533, Alumni Center  
200 SW 1st Street  
Rochester, MN 55905

**Alumni News**

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# 2008 SMSN ALUMNI REUNION

## Schedule of Events

| <u>Date</u>  | <u>Event</u>   | <u>Time</u>    | <u>Location</u>        |
|--------------|--|----------------|------------------------|
| September 13 | Brunch for Class of '58  | 11 am-1 pm     | Michaels Restaurant    |
|              | <b>Parking in any downtown public ramp is complimentary on weekends</b>                    |                |                        |
|              | Banquet for all SMSN Alumni & guests   |                |                        |
|              | Social Hour  | 5:50-6:30 pm   | Kahler Hotel Mezzanine |
|              | Dinner   | 6:30-9:00 pm   | Elizabethan Room       |
| September 14 | Mass for Alumni & guests   | 8:30 a.m.      | Saint Marys Chapel     |
|              | <b>Parking: flat lot, East end of Domitilla Building, Second St., Saint Marys Hospital</b> |                |                        |
|              | Farewell Coffee  | Following Mass | Sisters Dining Room    |

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(Cut here and mail in registration form)

### REGISTRATION FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS \_\_\_\_\_  
(First) (Maiden) (Married)

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Brunch** (Class of '58 & guests only)

I will attend (complimentary)

Not attending

Number of guests (\$15.00)

#### **Banquet**

I will attend \$35.00

Not attending

Number of guests (\$35)

#### **Coffee**

I will attend

Not attending

Number of guests

**The Brunch and banquet are complimentary for the Class of 1958. Their guest pay full price.**

#### **Class photo** (for classes of '48, '53, '58, '63, '68)

I am enclosing \$8.00, please mail me a copy of my class photo. Photos mailed in November.

### **PAYMENT MUST BE ENCLOSED WITH YOUR RESERVATIONS**

### **SPACE IS LIMITED THIS YEAR SO MAIL YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY.**

Detach this reservation form and mail with appropriate payment **NO LATER THAN AUGUST 20** to:

**SMSN Alumni Association, Siebens 533, Alumni Center, 200 SW 1st St., Rochester, MN 55905.**

Make checks payable to: **SMSN Alumni Association. TICKETS WILL NOT BE MAILED.**



