

# Alumni News



Saint Marys School of Nursing

Summer, 2010

## GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Seems like just a few months ago my class of '59 was celebrating their golden jubilee. 53 classmates attended and we had such a good time. I remember Sister Julie stating at our graduation banquet that we were a class a head of their time. I think we all would agree that still holds true today. We began our celebration gathering at Sue Strander Hindermann's home Friday evening to catch up on all we had been doing since we last celebrated together. Sadly Sue died this past January. She was a gracious hostess and I know she enjoyed having us that Friday evening. We will miss her. We continued our celebrating attending the luncheon at Michael's, banquet, Mass, farewell coffee and a brunch at Monica's for those who had not left for home. We were in good voice as we sang "Mary All Beautiful" in the chapel Sunday morning. We are already planning our next reunion in '14. Thank you to all who took the time to send emails and thank you notes.

As our Alumni numbers decline so do the numbers attending each reunion. Last year 120 attended. We will continue to utilize the Kahler Hotel for our reunions as it is conveniently located. The Alumni Board will attempt to keep the cost of the banquet reasonable. Alumni sponsored reunions will end in the year 2020, the year the last class of '70 will celebrate their 50th. I'm sure individual classes will continue to get together on their own after the year 2020.

As I gathered information to place in the newsletter I'm finding it difficult for information or news to write about this year. If there is anyone out there that would like to place an article in our Alumni News please contact me.

As health care continues to evolve, our school of nursing recognition proposal remains on hold. The Mayo Clinic has assured us that the project will move forward when things have stabilized. The Alumni voted last September to cover the costs of the stain glass window. We have estimates and the window will be about \$8000 including the installation. We have more than enough funds to cover this important project. We also have enough funds to continue the reunions as planned. The design for the stained glass window in the tower entrance to Saint Marys will be our nursing pin. If you remember the window is large and very visible entering the hospital from second street.

I returned to United Arab Emirates again in October for my yearly visit. I traveled to Thailand and India for 10 days with my friend and her children. This didn't bring me back home until mid December. With five days to unpack and repack, my family left on a Christmas Cruise, all 14 of us. The ship was decorated beautifully but it didn't feel like Christmas. A true Midwesterner, I missed the snow and holiday lights. For the first time in my life, I didn't have my own Christmas tree.

My struggle with the cochlear implant continues and I still have major difficulty understanding conversation. I do hear music better and can hear birds. Unfortunately, they don't sound like singing.

Thank you to all who send me news of various Alumni and address changes. I appreciate the notes and thank you to those

that write and send emails. With postal rates continuing to increase, which seems to be almost yearly, the address changes are most appreciated.

The Alumni does have a web site which gives a brief history of our school, posts the current newsletter, reunion information, and how to contact Alumni board members. To access this web site, do a Google search for Saint Marys School of Nursing Alumni Association and you'll find us.

I received an email from a dealer of old nursing school pins and would you believe our pin is selling for \$200. I couldn't see the name of the graduate unfortunately.

Hope the members of the celebrating classes of 1945, 1950, 1955, 1960, 1965, and 1970 will make an effort to attend our September reunion as we have only 10 reunions left. Seems unreal to think our last graduating class is celebrating their 40th this September. A safe journey to those alumni returning in September.

May your lives be blessed with good health, family, friends, laughter and joy.

God bless,

Monica Mellem Van Kirk '59

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## ENTER IN TO LEARN, GO FORTH TO SERVE

Those words shaped the lives of more than 100 young women in the year 1959, yet none of us could have foreseen the impact they would have on us for the next fifty years.

We came together to become nurses. We learned to take blood pressures, give hypos, wrap scultertus binders, and apply those hot stipes. We learned sterile technique in the OR and how to be team leaders and charge nurses on the floors. We worked long hours and split shifts, often on holidays.

Along the way, we also forged many wonderful friendships. I look back with nostalgia to playing bridge in the "smoker" and wearing raincoats over our baby doll pajamas when we ran to breakfast. We listened to "Love Letters in the Sand" as we sunbathed on the roof of Marian Hall and tried to walk softly in our heels to pass Sister Julie's scrutiny on our way to Mass.

After three years we left with not only a RN, but a host of life lessons learned. We learned how to organize tasks and cooperate with others. We learned to accept responsibility and to complete our duties. We developed a sense of humor and tried to see the positive in difficult situations. We learned to respect pain and to sympathize with those suffering. We saw death, which made us appreciate life more fully.

Saint Marys played a large part in making us what we are today. As we hear the stories of individual classmates, we can see the diversity of life styles and careers that we pursued. We can also see the principles and values that we learned at Saint Marys which have been incorporated into our daily lives.

Patricia Ringer Kennedy, Class of 1959

## ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

The general meeting of Saint Marys School of Nursing Alumni Association was called to order by vice-president Brenda Rizzo Rossman '67 at the annual alumni banquet.

Minutes of the general meeting of September 2008, were documented in the newsletter. There were no corrections or additions. The Board minutes of August 20, 2009 were read and approved.

Treasurers report from auditors report of 12/01/2008

Assets and Investments	\$43,095.21
Revenues	\$5,527.88 (includes banquet sales, book sales, and Mayo's contribution of (\$3500).

It was pointed out that each year we lose money on the banquet as the Alumni Association pays for the lunch and banquet for the 50 year class and also for the coffee on Sunday morning.

### OLD BUSINESS

President Monica Van Kirk presented the Board's suggestion of placing a stained glass window in the tower section of the 2nd street entrance to Saint Marys. This would be placed above the inter door involving the three window panels. The center would have the pin, on the left side, Saint Marys School of Nursing, 1906-1970, on the opposite side, Enter In To Learn, Go Forth to Serve. Monica has been working with a local Artisan who has estimated a cost of \$4000 for the center panel. Some Alumni had wished to have the cap as part of the design. Mayo was not in favor of a female statue as we also had male students. Part of the reasoning behind having a window: it is more permanent than a free standing design and is less probable to be removed in the future.

### NEW BUSINESS none

Brenda read correspondence from fellow Alumni.

Respectively submitted,

Virginia Simons Wentzel '59 Secretary

### ALUMNI NOTES

**Elizabeth Staudt Wilkie '32** celebrated her 100th birthday

**Emil Zahasky '40** celebrated his 92nd birthday on February 7, 2009. Emil was the first registered male nurse in Minnesota. Emil served in the Army and worked at the Mayo Clinic for 39 years.

**Doris Peterson Holland '40** wrote she has always been proud of her pin and cap. SMSN was an integral part of Mayo & Saint Marys Hospital with the student nurses contributing to Mayo's fame and accolades.

**Mary Meany Keys '42** sent her school pin. The pin was given to an Alumni. Mary also met Mary Ann O'Connor '59 in Elyria OH. Mary once rented a room in the O'Connor home when Mary Ann was about 4 years old. Small world.

**Letitia McCambridge Notbohm '42** wrote she had not been receiving the newsletter and sent in her address.

**Mary Weber Collison '45** sent in notices of two classmates deaths. "Seven of us came out West and now I am the only one left. I feel sort of like "the last of the Mohicans". Actually I am feeling very well but hate to have lost so many of my friends."

**Marie Fruth Miller '45** sent a booklet of nursing cartoons which was circulated to stimulate interest in the Cadet Corps. There are several comments and signatures in the booklet of surgical staff members.

**Kiyo Nishida Yamada '46** sent in her current address and says she enjoys the Alumni Newsletter that keeps her informed of Alumni.

**Delores Roloff Regedal '47** sent us Sister Mary Brigh's speech at the 1972 banquet. It appears to be an original with hand written corrections. Delores said her class was fascinated with Sister's rapid speech and train of thought. Sister was a wonderful instructor.

**Mary McWhorter Collett '48** sent her annual Christmas letter & greetings

**Eileen Scalon Norris '49** sent Christmas greetings and that her husband, Ray had died several years ago.

**Pat White Johnson '50** wrote twice this year supporting our stained glass window project. Pat's health has improved so she'll be back again this year for our September reunion. Pat renewed her nursing license again at the age of 80. "Once a nurse, always a nurse."

**Gloria Shutte Marolf '51** sent Christmas greetings

**Anne Pavlich '52** sent in an obituary and says she is the oldest living creature from the class of '52.

**Donna Schwarz '54** sent message that sister Jacquellin Schwarz Baehr '50 had died. Hello to her friends in the class of '54

**Mary Ellen Miller Hintz '56** has moved closer to her daughter who also found Mary Ellen a job at a medical office. I work ½ time entering data from paper charts to the computer. I did have to break down and buy a new Taber's Medical Dictionary, mine from training just wasn't up to the task.

**Ruth Kivipelto Mikich '55 and Marilyn Hare Figmiller '60** live in the same building in Wausau WI another small world.

**Louise Karp Leffrig '57** wrote in favor of the stained glass window, "our legacy is paramount to Saint Marys Hospital."

**Gloria HoffineHostak '58** sent in her support of the SMSN recognition project and thanked the board for their work.

**Dina Brown DeVries '58** wrote in favor of a stained glass window.

**Jolene Stadulski Allis '62** and Irene Jensen Kelly '66 called for transcripts.

**Mary Ann Lemieux Hartl '65** sent us notice of her aunt, Corinne Lemieux's death. She was an inspiration to her 3 nieces who followed her into nursing and the Army Nurse Corps. Mary herself served in Viet Nam.

**Karen Messersmith Zahasky '66** sent address change and greetings to her classmates of '66.

### IN MEMORIUM

Mary Crestodina Brogan '31

Helen Keily Cuniff '33

Margaret Swiontek '33

Bernadine Fendrich McGovern Comstock '34

Ivabelle Mattson Aikin '39

Mary Elizabeth Warren Andress '42

Corinne Lemieux '43

Mary Jane Winfrey Zerry '44

Geraldine Stenger Chavez '45

Marie Lockner Sevier '45

Lorna Griffin Grunklee '45

Fredonia Jensen Silk '45

Katherine Schettl Pertmer Johnson '47

Barbara Boos Hillesland '48

Sally Bruett Jones '48

Lorena Lieser Kryser '49

Raymond Norris '49

Margery Huiras MacMullen '50

Jacquellin Schwarz Baehr '50

Shirley Card Brunner '51

Dorothy Wincek White '51

Geraldine Garvey Paumen '52

Martha Langenfield Ellington '52

Marilyn Callery '53

Jane Loehlein '53

Patricia Hall Fitzgerald '54

Marilyn Gabel Willas '54

Janet Harwood Riedesel '55

B'Ann Stork Marvin '55

Marge Nutt Nawrocki '55

Mary Speltz Keller '57

Anita Owen Grengs '58

Ella Mae McCormick Sutherland '59

Sue Strander Hindermann '59

Margaret Remick Connelly '60  
Joyce Grovdahl Hettlinger '61  
Mary Jo McNeil Macken '62  
Jean Sinette English '66  
Sharon Trapp Markgren '66  
*Sincere sympathy to all that have lost family and friends this past year.*

### MEMORIALS

Memory of Patricia Hall Fitzgerald '54  
Gertrude Hogan Wirth '35, Elizabeth Hogan '34, Mary Kathleen Hogan, Margaret Hogan Meacham

### GIFTS

A generous gift to the Alumni from Rose McCardel Deamicis '59  
Vera Kruse Sullivan '50  
Beverly Thiede Schutz Knips '53  
Joanne Berger Lewis '64  
Doris Peterson Holland '40

### ATTENTION CLASS OF 1960

All members of the Class of 1960, should have received a letter in May regarding the details of our Friday night dinner/gathering. The gathering will be at September 10th at Michael's Restaurant downtown Rochester. We are still missing addresses for the following classmates: Patricia Schultz Pierce, Patricia Simon Murphy, Sally Stellern Calvin, Janet Brumbaugh Poehler. If you have any information please contact me. My thanks to all the class members who have volunteered to make this a successful reunion. Our condolences to the family and friends of Margaret Remick Connelly who died April 8, 2010. Hope to see you in Rochester.  
Carol Whelan Gustafson 1-505-897-3282

### REUNION DATES

**September 11 and 12, 2010**  
**September 10 and 11, 2011**  
**September 8 and 9, 2012**  
**September 7 and 8, 2013**

### REUNION PARKING & LODGING

Parking is complimentary in the Rochester City Public Ramps beginning 5 PM Friday thru Sunday at midnight. Mayo and Kahler Hotel ramps charge a fee. Parking for Sunday Mass and farewell coffee is also complimentary on the flat lot EAST of the hospital on 2nd Street. Handicap parking is available in the hospital ramps.

The Kahler Hotel is offering a lodging discount if reservations are placed by August 11. Identify yourself as SMSN alumni. Rates this year \$77 plus tax. The hotel phone numbers are: 507-282-2281 or toll free 1-800-533-1655.

### SITES OF INTEREST IN ROCHESTER

Alumni may be interested in: Mayo has a Statuary Park on the West side of the Gonda Bldg (across from St. John's Church), a historical section on the 1st floor of the Mayo Bldg., Saint Marys and M-K Schools of Nursing have provided artifacts of 20th century nursing on 3rd floor of the Plummer Bldg. Art display in the Siebens Bldg., Forever Caring Tableau in the Gonda Atrium which honors Mayo Nurses. Soldiers Field Park has a nursing memorial. All is within walking distance of downtown. The Memorabilia Room in Marian Hall will be open all weekend is open all year. Tours of the hospital will be available following the farewell coffee on Sunday. Independent walking tours of both hospitals and the clinic are available. Pamphlets are located at the information sites.

A drive up to Assisi Hgts is worthwhile. The Mayo Clinic has an agreement with the Franciscan Congregation to utilize half of the space. The Sisters' wing has been remodeled with larger rooms,

walk in closets and large handicap-accessible bathrooms. This was the first major change at the Mother House since it was built in the 50s.

### COMMEMORATIVE UPDATE

As many of you know, our commemorative project to recognize the student nurse of Saint Marys School of Nursing has been placed on hold. With the economy as it is and the impact of health care changes the Clinic's project to remodel the tower entrance has been placed on indefinite hold. That means our stained glass window plans are also on hold for now. Hopefully, we will be able to complete this project next year. The Alumni has ample funds to support doing this project independently once we get approval to begin. The Clinic wisely moves slowly and we need to be patient. The Clinic has assured us that this project has strong support and will continue once the economy had improved.

### TRANSCRIPTS

Transcripts are available with no charge:  
Mayo Records Management  
Mayo Clinic Rochester MN 55905  
Your request must include your name, maiden name, year you graduated, and your current address.

### BOOKS OF INTEREST

Sister Mary Brigh's book of poetry  
History of Saint Marys School of Nursing, Sincere et Constantier  
The Sisters' Story  
The Sisters' Story Part Two  
The books are available to purchase during the farewell coffee

### ALUMNI BOARD

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### BLESSING OF SAINT FRANCIS

May the Lord bless thee and keep thee,  
That thou mayest ever serve Him faithfully;  
May He show thee His face,  
Lest the darkness of despair encompass thee;  
And have pity on thee,  
When in thy weakness thou wanderest from fidelity;  
May He turn His face toward thee,  
That in it's light all else may fade from thee;  
And grant thee the peace of a heart wise in humility.

Sister Mary Brigh Cassidy, May 1936



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