



**Featured alum:  
Suzanne Spahr-Dudley**



Suzanne Spahr-Dudley was nominated as Alumna in the Spotlight by the Aultman College Alumni Board for her dedication to the field

of nursing for nearly 50 years.

After graduating from the School of Nursing in 1960, Suzanne worked for Aultman Hospital until 1962. Her career then led her to Robinson Memorial Hospital, Ravenna, Ohio, as the supervisor of the pediatric unit for six years. Subsequently, she moved to rural Minnesota where she became the staff and charge nurse for a local hospital. She also volunteered for the Red Cross bloodmobile.

Suzanne moved to Atwood Lake, Ohio, and began working at Union Hospital, Dover, Ohio, for 28 years, including a position as the nursing office shift supervisor. Toward the end of her career, she worked with the community health and wellness department, which involved teaching arthritis exercise classes, CPR and health.

Along with her career in nursing administration, Suzanne is a published researcher with articles featured in *The American Journal of Nursing*, *Registered Nurse* and *Nursing* magazines.

**From The Alumni Association President:**

Kim Poorman, RN, '91



As I finish my year as president of our Aultman College Alumni association, I feel good about all

we have accomplished and the responses to the new ideas we tried.

For the past three graduations, our Alumni Association has hosted a party for all the graduates and their guests at R.G. Drage Career Center immediately after the ceremony. The students and their families really appreciate this time to celebrate their achievements and take pictures. In May, six alumni participated in the after-graduation ceremony where cupcakes and drinks



were served. I personally had the chance to meet many of the new graduates.

I also had the opportunity to meet a lady who was so touched by the compassion and caring of the Aultman College student nurses who cared for her mother, that she took time to attend the graduation ceremony and celebrate their accomplishments.

For the second year, we provided financial support for students to attend the Ohio Nursing Students'

Association convention where our men's team won the Annual Brain Bowl championship and Katie Denslow was named the Ohio Nursing Student of the Year. We're so proud of them!

Another change we introduced was to combine our Spring Dinner with our annual 50-year Dinner which honors those who graduated from Aultman's School of Nursing 50 years ago. The slide show presented by the class of 1960 was outstanding and provided a

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## From The Aultman Alumni Association President: Kim Poorman, RN, '91

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glimpse of nursing school life during the early '60s. The college was able to interview many alumni and record their memories. This footage will be used as a video history for the College. Anyone who would like to contribute memories, stories, pictures or more should contact our new alumni coordinator, Shannon Helfinstine.

As I hand the gavel over to our incoming president, Will Harris, I am excited to move forward. I know he and our other new officers will do an excellent job and provide even more exciting programming for our members. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your president.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE AULTMAN COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

President: Will Harris, RN ('05)

President Elect: Kim Poorman, RN ('91)

Secretary: Carol Leidtke, RN, BSN ('06)

Treasurer: Rose Day, RN, BSN ('59)

## Spotlight: New Alumni Coordinator



Aultman College welcomes Shannon Helfinstine, Ph.D. as alumni relations coordinator. A microbiologist by training, Shannon gained expertise in planning special events and facilitating ongoing programs while attending graduate school and working for a company. While her focus is currently on alumni relations, Shannon also provides

education division and will transition to a faculty position as the College brings science classes onsite.

Shannon takes over the alumni relations role from Brittany Fehlman who had been responsible for both student life and alumni relations. Due to growing enrollment, Brittany is now the full-time student affairs coordinator.

Shannon earned her bachelor's degree in 2001 and her doctorate degree in 2007, both from Kent State University in biology, specializing in microbiology. She served as adjunct professor in the biological science departments at Kent State University and The University of Akron. Her classes and labs included many students who were preparing to enter nursing and health sciences programs within the respective schools.

"I look forward to meeting more of our alumni," said Shannon. Her plans include supporting the transition of the

alumni presidency from Kim Poorman to Will Harris, increasing general attendance at the monthly Alumni Association meetings, involving more members in college activities and strengthening communications with alumni through e-mail, Facebook and other media.

### Upcoming Alumni Association Meetings

Tuesday, Sept 14

Tuesday, Oct 12

Time: 4:30 pm

Location: Founders Room at Aultman College

*Please note: Meetings have been moved from Wednesdays to Tuesdays. All alumni are welcome and encouraged to attend!*

### How to reach Shannon Helfinstine, Ph.D., alumni relations coordinator:

**E-mail:**

shelfinstine@aultman.com  
or  
alumni@aultmancollege.edu

**Phone:**

330.363.1127

**Mail:**

Aultman College of Nursing and Health Sciences  
2600 6th Street SW  
Canton, OH 44710

# May Graduation

In May, Aultman College celebrated the graduation of 49 nursing students. The seventh graduating class of Aultman College of Nursing and Health Sciences held commencement ceremonies on May 8 at R.G. Drage Career Center in Massillon. Leading the graduates in their march and carrying the college's ceremonial mace was Jo Ann Weinland, MSN, RN, ACNS-BC, who received the 2010 Distinguished Faculty Award at the Nursing Pinning ceremony earlier that day.



*Rebecca Arnette*

During the graduation ceremony, student Rebecca Arnette and class valedictorian Kayla Mast inspired their fellow graduates and guests with their

recollections of their Aultman College experiences and the significance of completing the first steps of their nursing education.



*Kayla Mast*



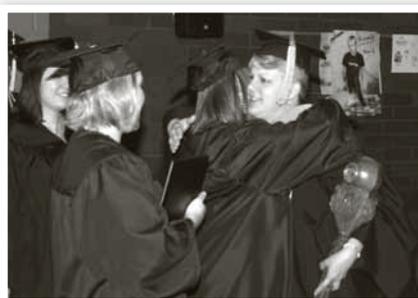
*Male nursing grads were well-represented in the May 2010 class. Pictured are (front row l-r): Tyler Young, Eric McFall, Michael Smith, Russ Leonardi. Back row: Brandon Crabtree, Jonathan Sidle, Martin Kersten, Rick MacWithey, Jeremy Hubbard, Chris Ilg.*



Edward J. Roth III, president and chief executive officer (CEO) of Aultman Health Foundation, delivered a moving commencement

*Edward J. Roth III* address challenging graduates to recognize the opportunities they have as nurses to turn small moments into great moments through caring.

Following the ceremony, graduates were welcomed as alums at a reception sponsored by the Aultman College Alumni Association.



*2010 Distinguished Faculty Award winner Jo Ann Weinland congratulates a group of May graduates.*

## Congratulations!

### *Graduating Class of May 2010*

- Rebecca Ann Arnette, Apple Creek
- Megan Irene Bender, Akron
- Ashley Bernhart, Massillon
- Sarah Marie Bowersox, Ravenna
- Brittany Neathery Bushnell, Canton
- Michaela A. Cooper, Seville
- Maria Alanna Coy, East Canton
- Brendon Kyle Crabtree, Cuyahoga Falls
- Sarah A. Dean, Minerva
- Katrina Laurie Deem, Beach City
- \*Kathleen Marie Denslow, Louisville
- Amanda Esola, Barberton
- Elisa Gayle Ferguson, Massillon
- Tracie Fitch, Massillon
- Angie Erin Fleming, Akron
- \*Aubrey M. Garra, Minerva
- Alexandria Danielle Hallman, Homeworth
- Elizabeth A. Heck, Akron
- Bonnie Hedrick, Akron
- Laura Lynn Hoffman, Canton
- Alicia Marie Hooser, Creston
- Joy Marie Howd, Stow
- Jeremy Hubbard, Malvern
- Christopher Phillip Ilg, Massillon
- \*Jessica M. Jones, Canton
- Jessica Maria Kaser, Wadsworth
- Martin A. Kersten, Uniontown
- Russell P. Leonardi, Wooster
- Brooke Nichole Longan, Massillon
- Aletha Lucero, Akron
- \*Frederick L. MacWithey, Massillon
- \*Kayla Michelle Mast, Canton
- Elizabeth Ashley McDaniel, Akron
- Eric Charles McFall, Uniontown
- Laura Beth McPherson, East Canton
- Christine E. Nelson, Mogadore
- Katie Elizabeth Parsell, Akron
- Tina L. Robbins, Canton
- Lerica Ellon-Lee Rock, North Lawrence
- Katherine Anna Rummell, Carrollton
- Ashley Nicole Scheetz, Canton
- Keliann Shively, Uniontown
- Jonathan Sidle, Orrville
- Michael C. Smith, New Philadelphia
- Stacy L. Vettel, Copley
- Angela Kay Watters, Akron
- Sarah Alissabeth Wingard, Cuyahoga Falls
- Tyler Charles Young, Canton
- Jo Ann Yutzky, Dalton

\* Graduating with distinction

## “Doing For Her Patients” – Carolyn (Crisp) Florea ‘63

*Up at 2:30 a.m. Arrive in the doctor’s office by 4:30 a.m. Prepare doctor to see his patients from 6:30-10:30 a.m. Spend the rest of the workday teaching patients how to help with their treatments for Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis. Track patient results for research. Home at 6:30 p.m.*

Her days may be full, but Carolyn (Crisp) Florea, class of 1963 wouldn’t have it any other way.

Her devotion has won accolades from her patients. Twice she has been nominated for the 2009 and 2010 Nursing Excellence Awards, sponsored by the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, as part of its “Celebrating Nurses” program. Carolyn was honored with a certificate that says, “In recognition of

exceptional performance, dedication and strength in improving the lives of others.” She also received a pin emblazoned with “Nursing Excellence Award” that she wears every day.

Carolyn’s enthusiasm for the nursing profession helped persuade her niece, Katie Parsell to become a nurse and attend Aultman College. When Katie graduated in May 2010, Carolyn celebrated her accomplishment by attending the graduation and pinning ceremonies where Katie was a featured speaker.

“I have been working as a nurse for 47 years and love ‘doing for my patients,’” says Carolyn in a soft Georgian accent she acquired during her 36 years there. A native of Akron, Ohio, Carolyn started her career with Aultman Hospital on “old McKinley 1” for three years, then moved to Akron City Hospital from 1966-1974 where she became the head nurse in OB-GYN.

In 1974, she and her former husband

moved to Georgia for his new job. She immediately started work at Coliseum Hospital and became involved in starting the utilization program for Coliseum Hospital and the State of Georgia. From 1981-1998, she was director of nursing at the first home health agency in Georgia.

In 1998, she became the lead nurse with the practice of Dr. Shahriar Sedghi whom she describes as, “one of the top gastroenterologists and an excellent teacher and associate professor at Mercer Medical College.” Dr. Sedghi conducts many academic research projects and counts on Carolyn to administer the medications. “I am the only one who is ‘unblind’ to who receives which prescriptions,” she explains.

Now, happily married for 19 years to a “southern gentleman,” Carolyn said she chose a career in nursing when she was 17 after her 3-year-old brother died on the operating table after an injury. The doctor didn’t ask when



Carolyn Florea '63 celebrates graduation with her niece, Katie Parsell '10.

*“My ‘aunt-buddy’ encouraged me to attend Aultman College because the classes are small, people know your name and they really care if you pass,” said Katie Parsell, 2010 graduate and niece of Carolyn Florea. (See related article).*

*At the pinning ceremony, Katie offered some personal insights regarding why she chose to become a nurse and her personal pledge, which she patterned after that of Florence Nightingale. “My grandma (who suffered from Alzheimer’s disease) was placed into a nursing home where she received poor care and was often neglected. . . I solemnly promise in the presence of this assembly to care for all persons with all the knowledge, skills, and understanding that I possess. I will do everything in my power to preserve life, alleviate suffering and to promote health for my patients. . . I will care for you as if you were my family.”*

## Florea *(continued)*

the boy had had his last meal and, unfortunately, the youngster aspirated and died on the table. "I vowed to become a nurse and make sure something like that would not happen to a patient of mine," she recalls.

In 2003, Carolyn attended the 40th anniversary of her Aultman graduating class where she and about 30 of her fellow classmates reminisced about their nursing school days. "It

was an awesome time to be a student there. We learned so much and had a great deal of responsibility. I remember many of our tremendous teachers, several of whom attended our reunion.

"Roslyn Messerly, who taught surgery and is now on the College's board of directors, was among those attending the reunion. I also saw her at the May 2010 graduation ceremony.

Surprisingly, Helen Showers, who taught us med-surg, also attended graduation – at age 93," added Carolyn.

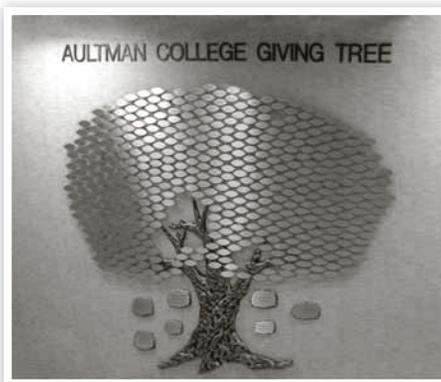
Grateful to Aultman for her nursing education, Carolyn has had the same goal during her 47 years of nursing in a variety of roles: "Not for glory, but do for the people." Her life's work and commitment to patients truly make Carolyn a nurse to be celebrated.

## Update on 1892 Fundraising

Thank you to all alumni who contributed to the 1892 Annual Campaign. During our fall 2009 and spring 2010 telethons, our students connected with more alumni than ever. Total contributions for the 2009-2010 campaign were \$22,000, comparable to recent years' results. **It's not too late to contribute!** If you would like to make a donation, please contact Vi Leggett at [vleggett@aultman.com](mailto:vleggett@aultman.com). Funds raised by this campaign are used for scholarships for deserving students. The balance is invested to build an endowment fund for future students.

Valerie Bontrager of Winesburg, Ohio, was an 1892 Fund scholarship recipient in spring 2010. Valerie was on the Dean's list for the spring term. "This scholarship helped me a ton," said Valerie with appreciation. "I have been working two jobs – at a restaurant and a cleaning service – to cover my living expenses while attending Aultman College. With this

scholarship, I was able to work fewer hours and spend more time studying."



### *New Engraved Leaves Added to Giving Tree*

Thank you to the following donors who gave at least \$500 total to support Aultman College of Nursing and Health Sciences:

Jo Ann Weinland  
Vicki and Joe Scott  
Greg and Wendy Gotschall  
Class of May 2010

## Tee It Up Fore Aultman College!

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**August 18, 2010**



It's time to practice your golf swing and scrub your clubs! Join the fun at the Aultman College of Nursing and Health Sciences women's nine-hole golf scramble on Wednesday, Aug. 18, at Wilkshire Golf Club, 10566 Wilkshire Blvd., N.E. in Bolivar. Alumni are warmly invited to participate.

Registration begins at 8:15 a.m., followed by a shotgun start at 9 a.m. The cost is \$300 per foursome and includes a cart, nine holes of golf, continental breakfast, lunch, gift bags and door prizes. A special prize will be awarded to the winning team.

Proceeds from the event benefit the college's "1892 Annual Campaign," which provides scholarships for deserving Aultman College students. Registration deadline is Wednesday, Aug. 11. For more information or to register, contact Aultman College at 330.363.6347.

## Alumni Notes

### Class of 2008

**Christine Garra** of Minerva, Ohio, received an Outstanding Performance Award, which is a leadership award voted on by the faculty of Malone University where she will earn her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing in August.

**Melanie Jones** and her husband Matt Kallio of Wooster, Ohio, are the proud parents of Jack Matthew Kallio who was born March 18. Their older child is Corinne.

### Class of 2005

**Laurel Ann Jones** of Malvern, Ohio, earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from The University of Akron in May 2009.

### Class of 2003

**Kathleen Wright** of North Canton, Ohio, received an Outstanding Performance Award, which is a leadership award voted on by the faculty of Malone University where she will earn her Master of Science degree in Nursing in August.

**Kristopher Young, MSN, NP-C, RN-BC, CHPN**, of Phoenix, Ariz., graduated in December 2009 with a Master of Science degree in Nursing as a Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) with a subspecialty in Palliative Care. He is a certified FNP with board certification in pain management, hospice & palliative care.

### Class of 1975

**Marlene Blackford** of Hartville, Ohio, would like to buy a nurse pin from someone willing to sell theirs. You may contact her at 330.877.6069.

### Class of 1969

**Judith Werstler, RN, BSN, MSN, PCCN**, was nominated by Aultman Hospital for the Ohio Hospital Association's 2010 Albert E. Dyckes Health Care Worker of the Year Award. Nominees are hospital employees who demonstrate leadership, reflect the values and ideals of Ohio's health care facilities, go above and beyond the call of duty, give back to the community and have overcome odds to succeed. Judith is a

clinical nurse specialist in Aultman Hospital's stroke program.

### Class of 1949

**Kathryn Alborn Strang** of Cape Coral, Fla., continues to work at age 81 as an RN at an independent and assisted living facility in Fort Myers, Fla.

## Condolences



*Our deepest sympathies to the families of:*

Jeanne Lynn Bird  
(Class of 1985)

Carolyn Herman  
(Class of 1952)

## McGee '97 Recognized by Canton Chamber



Angela McGee, class of 1997 and associate vice president for critical care at Aultman Hospital, was selected as one of "20 Under 40," a program that recognizes 20 professionals younger than age 40. Sponsored by ystark!, a department of the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce, and The Repository, this award honors people who who make a difference in the community and are remarkable for their

outstanding efforts.

Angela believes it is critical that people support the community in various ways.

She's an active volunteer, working with the Canton Local schools, Habitat for Humanity, the Stark County Humane Society and several organizations through Aultman Hospital.

"It is very rewarding for me to serve as a volunteer and help others who are facing a difficult time, as I was at one time on the receiving end," Angela said. "Mentoring

our children and ensuring proper education for success is critical."

Angela decided to stay in Canton because it is a diverse community that, despite a population of about 80,000, feels like a small town. She is encouraged by seeing organizations in the community lay the groundwork for future success by tapping into the school systems and working with students before they leave for college. "This helps to set the grassroots foundation so young people will return to Stark County upon graduation," she said.

## Annual Spring and 50-Year Dinner – April 23

More than 100 people attended the combined Annual Spring and 50 Year Dinner on April 23 at Skyland Pines Restaurant in Canton. Taking part in the celebration were Aultman College administrators and faculty, recent graduates, and alumni representing many different classes, including 31 of the 51 graduates from the class of 1960. The 1960 grads were thrilled that both of their advisors attended: Roslyn Messerly, who

taught surgery and now serves on the College's board of directors, and Donna Hentschel, who taught nursing fundamentals, public health and clinical, while also serving as the musical director. A highlight of the entertainment was a video starring members of the class of 1960, plus their friends who graduated in 1958 and 1959. Participants shared members of dorm life, studying and working at Aultman Hospital for \$.55/hour.

Many thanks to the dinner organizers from the class of 1960: Miriam Baughman, Georgie Bergert, Sandy Dawson, Carol DeWalt (president of the class of 1960), Sandy Frazier and Suzanne Spahr-Dudley.

Copies of the Class of 1960 video are available from Absolute Post Productions 330.966.6568.



*Alumni enjoyed good food, good entertainment and good company.*



*Carol DeWalt, president of the Class of 1960, shares memories with her fellow classmates.*

*Attending their first alumni event are May 2010 graduates: Front row: Bonnie Hedrick, Laura Hoffman, Tina Robbins, Megan Bender, Katie Denslow, Michaella Cooper. Back row: Becky Arnette, Christine Nelson, Kayla Mast, Katie Rummell, and Instructor Jo Ann Weinland MSN, RN, ACNS-BC.*





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**President**, Will Harris, '05  
**President-Elect**, Kim Poorman, '91  
**Secretary**, Carol Leidtke, '06  
**Treasurer**, Rose Day, '59  
**Alumni Relations Coordinator**, Shannon Helfinstine, Ph.D.  
**Connection editor**, Laurie Moline

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## CHECK US OUT ON Facebook

Keep up to date on alumni events through our Facebook page. You can find us by going to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and searching for Aultman College Alumni.

As a bonus, enjoy a clever musical skit by two of our newest alumni as they portray the heartbeat of a 72-year-old man holding a winning Powerball lottery ticket.

Brendon Crabtree '10 and Eric McFall's '10 video has been such a hit with all the students that they put it on YouTube. We've posted it to the Aultman Alumni Facebook site.

## Video Tribute to the Aultman School of Nursing

Please return to:

**Shannon Helfinstine, Ph.D.**  
 Aultman College of Nursing  
 and Health Sciences  
 2600 Sixth St. S.W.  
 Canton, OH 44710

In 2012, we'll celebrate 120 years of nursing education here at Aultman. As part of that tribute, we are compiling a scrapbook and video program highlighting memories of Morrow House, nursing training, early clinical experiences and more. Please take a moment to share a memory.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Memory \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_