Annual Spring Dinner

Join the class of 1964 as we celebrate their 50 year reunion at Skyland Pines Friday, April 25. This evening is an opportunity to honor our alma mater, the friendships we established and the service we provided to the community. Please plan to attend and join the fun. The cost of this year’s event is $25.

To reserve your seat, please complete and return the form on page 7 by April 18. Remember to bring and share your memorabilia! We need help to keep memories alive!

For more information, please contact Alumni Coordinator Sheri Storlie at 330-363-1178.
If you ask people the main reason they chose nursing as a career, some will say it’s because it offered a steady job with good pay. While that's certainly true, I think you will find many more people say they chose nursing for more personal reasons: They wanted to help people, to give back or to make a difference in the lives of others. They saw nursing as a higher calling, something much more than just a job.

We include community service time as a graduation requirement because we believe service to others is a critical facet of successful Aultman College graduates’ education. While every one of our students will tell you that their days are incredibly full, I’ve heard many first-hand accounts of how much students value those service activities. Through these service requirements, they come to better understand the tremendous benefit they receive and personal satisfaction they gain through serving others.

As Tara Neidert said about participating in service opportunities, “It doesn’t bless only the people you help, it also blesses you.”

Most of the giving-back done by our graduates happens close to where they live and work. But some of them, including Tara, go a step further and travel much farther. They volunteer for service opportunities around the world. In our feature story, you will read about several graduates who are applying the skills they learned here at Aultman College as they help others in Ecuador, India, Kenya and Mozambique.

We all have very full lives, and sometimes it’s hard to imagine fitting one more thing in. Still, I think we should each think about the example set by Aultman College graduates who contribute their time and talent to help others in need. I am not suggesting you jump on a plane and head to Kenya for two weeks, but there are unlimited opportunities nearby where you could make a tremendous difference in the lives of others.

Sincerely,

Rebecca J. Crowl, President
On Friday, Dec. 13, R.G. Drage became a bustle of activity as Aultman College’s newest graduates, friends and families eagerly awaited the beginning of the December Commencement. Following the address by Anne Gunther, chief nursing officer at Aultman Hospital, anticipation mounted as graduates were invited to the stage to receive their diplomas from President Crowl.
Pinning Ceremony

The Pinning Ceremony for December 2013 graduates was held in the Morrow House Auditorium Thursday, Dec. 12. The ceremony is a time-honored nursing school tradition that marks the culmination of the initial journey of professional nursing education and the students’ pledge to carry out ideals of one of the world’s most well-known nurses, Florence Nightingale. The graduates received their pins from ASN Program Director Dianne Gibbs, recited the Florence Nightingale pledge in unison and then were invited to join Aultman Chaplain Terry Livengood in a blessing-of-the-hands ceremony.

Scholarship Awards Ceremony

Aultman College held its first Fall Awards Convocation Sept. 20. During the convocation, six new Phi Theta Kappa members were inducted. Scholarship winners had the opportunity to meet the donors and were presented with scholarship certificates.

Kick Stress Week

Finals week can be stressful! Student Life Coordinator Jen Penso organized events each day so students could “kick stress” and relax. The popcorn machine was working overtime sending out an inviting aroma, free coffee and tea were available, Lyn Sabino provided massages and the Happy Tails dogs stopped by to give out sloppy kisses to anyone willing to scratch behind their ears.

Past and Present Lunch

Nov. 19 was a special day on our campus for the alumni from the classes of 1946-1956. They were invited to meet present students to share lunch and stories about their nursing school experiences. Among the laughter, alumni reminisced about their dorm rules, silly roommates and the nursing procedures that seem so archaic to the nursing practices of today. Alumni discovered that students today carry different responsibilities. When they attended school, they were young, single girls living in a dorm and focused solely on their studies. Today’s students must juggle school and studying, along with their family and work obligations. Students realized that although life as a student nurse may have been extremely different in the ’40s and ’50s, one thing remains the same: Nursing is a special career that requires compassion and a lifetime of caring for others.
GO RED FOR WOMEN

Aultman College students, staff and faculty came together on National Wear Red Day™ to promote awareness of heart disease in women. Adene (Troyer) Keller (’86), BSN, shared a presentation on “Preventing the Event” and then the group gathered for a picture in support of the American Heart Association’s annual Go Red event.

Founders’ Wall Showcase

Over the past several months, staff members Vi Leggett, Sheri Storlie and JoAnn Donnenwirth, with the help of Whitemeyer Advertising, have been actively designing a display that celebrates the beginning of the Aultman Hospital School of Nursing in 1892 and the beginning of Aultman College in 2004. In November, the idea came to fruition and is now on display in the Founders’ Room at Aultman College. The display includes artifacts and memorabilia from these important years of the school history.

Med Tech Day

Do you know the biggest recruiters for Aultman College are alumni and students? When you share your experiences with your friends and family, they are gaining first-hand knowledge from someone they trust. In December, several Aultman College students put their recruiting skills to the test. They teamed up with students from Washington High School’s health tech programs to experience life on our campus at the annual Med Tech Day. Our nursing and radiography students were eager to answer questions as they led groups to various stations to view radiography films, experience the Simulation Lab, dig deep into the anatomy of the brain and tour the campus.
Igniting an Interest in Science!

Dec. 9 was another busy day for Aultman College. In addition to the normal activities, the college hosted approximately 30 juniors and seniors from Timken High School and R. G. Drage Med Tech programs for the Get Connected event. Co-sponsored by Aultman College and the United Way Women’s Leadership Council, the event gave students an opportunity to practice networking skills and gain exposure to a health sciences collegiate environment.

Grove City Bus Trip

Approximately 30 alumni, staff and Aultman employees embarked on an adventure in November! After boarding a charter bus at Aultman College, the group headed to Grove City, Pa., to do some SERIOUS pre-Black Friday shopping. Attendees enjoyed spending time with family and friends as they shopped 'till they dropped! If you have ideas for the next alumni excursion, contact Alumni Coordinator Sheri Storlie at sstorlie@aultman.com or 330-363-1178.

Aultman College and United Way Women’s Leadership Council Host Annual Get Connected Event

Dec. 9 was another busy day for Aultman College. In addition to the normal activities, the college hosted approximately 30 juniors and seniors from Timken High School and R. G. Drage Med Tech programs for the Get Connected event. Co-sponsored by Aultman College and the United Way Women's Leadership Council, the event gave students an opportunity to practice networking skills and gain exposure to a health sciences collegiate environment.
Campus Accomplishments
Aultman College Faculty and Students are Representing Us Well!

Aultman College Instructor Submits Article for Publication
Christine (Barcus) Kalt, MSN, instructor, has written and submitted an article entitled “Primary Biliary Cirrhosis.” The article has been received by the journal MedSurg Matters. The article is being reviewed by the editorial committee. Congratulations, Christine, for your efforts in this scholarly journey!

Aultman College Participates in “Spirit of Inquiry” Research Conference
In November, Aultman Health Foundation hosted an annual research conference entitled “Spirit of Inquiry: A Decade of Discovery.” Aultman College had many participants in this project. Dr. Theresa Benzel, Dr. Deb Hyde and Jo Ann Donnenwirth were invited speakers as well as poster presenters. Sue Shepherd (’81), Vi Leggett and Dr. Paddock were poster judges. Dr. Kris Skalsky, Renee Adams and Dianne Gibbs (’77) were involved as presenters or mentors. A special congratulations to Dianne Gibbs who was the winner of the best research poster! Kudos to all participants, and thank you for representing Aultman College!

Instructor Receives Awards
Accolades go to Aultman College assistant professor Dr. Cherokee Russo. In April 2013, she won the Stark State College “Adjunct Instructor, Excellence in Teaching Award” that is presented to only one adjunct per year. Then in November 2013, Stark State College also selected Dr. Russo as its “Faculty Pillar of Responsibility” in its annual “Six Pillars of Character Awards.” Additionally, on the state level, she was nominated this past November for the “Outstanding Adjunct Teaching Award” from the Ohio Association of Two-Year Colleges. Congratulations!

Student Senate Elects New President
Aultman College student Alyssa Mauser was elected Student Senate president with previous president Jennifer Gillis graduating in December 2013. Alyssa had been vice president of the senate for the last two semesters. She is also a member of the Aultman College Student Nurse Association and serves on the Ohio Nursing Student Association board of directors as legislative director. We welcome Alyssa to her new role!

Points of Caring Award Winner Kasey McKinney
Kasey McKinney was awarded the Aultman Points of Caring award for 2013. Kasey is a current student and found her previous job unfulfilling. After watching nurses take care of her ill father and their positive impact on patients, she decided to become a nurse. ASN Program Director Dianne Gibbs said, “She’s becoming a nurse for the right reason.” Congratulations, Kasey!

Students Attend ONSA Convention
On Sept. 27-28, Aultman College Student Nurse Association (ACSNNA) members attended the Ohio Nursing Student Association’s yearly conference in Cincinnati. They were able to attend through fundraising and a generous donation from the Aultman College Alumni Association. Four of our students were elected to board positions. Thomas Piper, president of the ACSNA, was presented with the Student Nurse of the Year award!
Name ____________________________________________________________________________

Address ___________________________________________________________________________

Will you be dining with us?  Yes  No  (Please note there is dinner charge of $25)

Select the main course you desire for your meal:  Chicken  Scrod  Steak  Vegetarian

Would you like to make a donation to the 1892 Campaign?

$100  $50  $25  $10  Other_________

Join us at Skyland Pines
3550 Columbus Road NE, Canton

Friday, April 25, 2014

5 p.m. Registration & Cocktails  •  6 p.m. Program Begins

Please share some of your fondest memories of your days at Aultman:

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

Please return your completed form by April 18, 2014, along with your payment (if applicable), to:

Aultman College Alumni Association  •  2600 Sixth St. SW, Canton, OH 44710
Beth Ferrell (1959) was 48 years old when she moved to Mozambique. It was her first assignment as a medical missionary with the United Methodist Church. Working as an administrator at a hospital deep in the African wild, she knew she was where God wanted her.

For 10 years she served full time, giving what she could: her nursing knowledge, her leadership skill, pints of her own blood. She said it wasn't easy, but it was rewarding. The exhilaration and fulfillment led her to continue volunteering in Sierra Leone and, years later, back in Mozambique. (See sidebar on page 9 for more of Ferrell's story.)

Medical missions seem to have that effect. Aultman College graduates Tara Neidert (2013), Danielle Rollins (2011) and Abby Travis (2011) have experienced it, too, as short-term volunteers on one- to two-week trips. Their assignments have taken them around the world, caring for people in underprivileged areas of Africa, Asia and South America. And they can't wait to go back.

Like so many volunteers, these nurses have seen medical missions change lives — including their own.

Why They Went

“Aultman instilled in us the importance of serving others,” Rollins said. “As students at Aultman College, we learned about different areas where we could practice and were challenged to be open to opportunities.”

Neidert also credits Aultman, specifically its community service requirement, for introducing her to the enjoyment of helping people in need.

But it’s faith-based and service organizations that most often turn the desire to help into action. Like Ferrell’s mission to Mozambique, Neidert’s trip to Kenya, Travis’ to Ecuador and Rollins to India were all made as part of church-sponsored groups.

“We assembled a team of nurses, doctors and EMTs to serve in remote villages in India where people had no access to medical care,” Rollins explained. “I did fundraising and covered all of my trip expenses. That was exciting because I involved other people in the cause.”

How They Served

During her two-week mission in Kenya, Neidert and a small group of volunteers supported local nurses at a makeshift clinic in a church.

“Area residents came for treatment, some for basic health care, some for help with certain conditions,” recalled Neidert. “We had brought medication to distribute as needed, such as antibiotics and fever medicine, which people there could never afford even if it were available. Every patient received a pill to treat worms, a really common problem.”

Neidert’s team also delivered medical supplies to two orphanages. “It was so much fun being with the children,” she said. “They were so excited to see a white person. They were all over us because they don’t see very many of us!”
The children in Ecuador were just as excited to see Travis and the team from her church. The team visits annually and sets up a clinic at a school where they do yearly assessments for the approximately 100 students. “We also provided some health education for the kids and their families,” she said. “We held an open house at the school, where we answered health questions and taught them what they should be doing at home to stay healthy.”

While children at the school do get regular medical care, they live in an impoverished inner city. The team from Travis’s church aims to improve their overall health. Initial results are promising. The children seem to be in better health each time the team visits, Travis reports.

Rollins saw the “poorest of the poor” during her 10 days in southern India. “We’d visit a different village each day, traveling from 1-3 hours by bus from the compound where we stayed,” she remembered. “Crowds would be waiting for us to arrive. The needs of the people were overwhelming, so we just took care of them one-by-one. The others impatiently waited outside in the unforgiving heat. The people were so desperate for basic care that we take for granted.”

Rollins and her group, including a dentist and an optometrist, saw patients for 8-10 hours each day. They’d set up a clinic in dirt-floor buildings or tents. Hopeful patients would stand in line for hours.

“When it was time for us to leave, there would still be people waiting in line,” Rollins shared. “It was heartbreaking. How long would it be until their next chance to see a health care professional?”

A World of Need

Despite the emotional challenges, Rollins says that helping people in severe need is a satisfying way to use the skills that nurses have been privileged to learn. She says it’s also a way to get out of your comfort zone and discover life in a different culture. “It turns your world upside down when you experience the conditions,” she said. “There were orphaned children, homeless and castoffs with severe ailments seemingly everywhere we turned.”

While people and cultures are different, their need for basic nursing is the same — maybe requiring an extra dose of compassion, noted Travis.

“You learn empathy for different types of people that you may not encounter every day but will encounter at some point in your health care career,” she explained. “No matter where or how we live, we all get sick and want someone to take care of us.”

All three nurses say there’s no question they’ll return to the mission field. Travis plans to return to Ecuador this June. “When I came back from my first trip, I thought about looking for a job where I could do more of this — just go and set up clinics,” she said. “But missionary work really isn’t a far stretch from what nurses do every day. It’s just caring for people who need help.”

“It’s so gratifying to use your abilities and talents to help others who can’t begin to afford healthcare,” Neidert said. “It doesn’t just bless them, it blesses you.”

Alumna in the Spotlight

Beth Ferrell graduated from the Aultman Hospital School of Nursing in 1959. After passing her boards, she went on to receive her BSN and MA from Kent State University. Beth then completed a post-master’s certificate in community-based interventions at the University of Arizona in 2001.

Beth began her career at Twin City Hospital in Dennison, Ohio, and served there for 29 years. She held numerous roles including emergency nurse/supervisor, staff nurse in obstetrics, administrative director of clinical services and nursing services. Beth also served as an interim administrator for the hospital.

After her stellar career at Twin City Hospital, Beth served 21 years as a missionary nurse with the Board of Global Ministry of the United Methodist Church. Throughout those years she held positions as a nursing supervisor in Mozambique, Africa, helped re-establish a health center in Sierra Leone, Africa, and also served as a mission interpreter.

Beth currently resides in Uhrichsville, Ohio, and has two children, 13 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Although she has been retired since 2010, Beth continues to serve the underprivileged of Africa on a volunteer basis. Thank you, Beth, for your years of service both locally and abroad!
Greetings alumni and friends!

I hope everyone enjoyed their holiday season and survived this incredibly long, bitter cold winter. First and foremost, I would like to congratulate our December 2013 graduating class as they have completed a pursuit of a dream and begin a new chapter in their lives.

As you peruse The Connection, you will see that the fall semester was very busy at Aultman College. Students participated in a blood drive, worked on a home through Habitat for Humanity and attended state conventions. Staff and faculty were busy as we welcomed our first cohort to the RN to BSN Completion Program. We are delighted we are able to offer another quality program to our community, and we anticipate this program will continue to grow with the changes in health care education.

If you are interested in pursuing your BSN, contact Program Coordinator Jenn Loretto at 330-363-1186. She will be able to get you on the right track on furthering your education and tell you about the discounts you may be eligible for as an alum or Aultman employee.

With the winter behind us, spring is here and that means exciting new things on the horizon! The halls at Aultman College have been filled with excitement as students entered the doors to pursue their careers in nursing and radiography. We began our semester with “Welcome Week;” the weeks have disappeared quickly and now we are approaching yet another commencement!

Soon, students and staff will be contacting you for our annual phone-a-thon to raise money for the 1892 Campaign. The proceeds will fund scholarships for students pursuing careers in nursing or radiography. If you have made a recent donation through the Thanksgiving appeal, we thank you. If you were unable to donate this past fall, please consider supporting our students on their quest of a career in health care.

As president of the Alumni Association, I urge you to be involved by attending our monthly association meetings. Great things are happening, and we are always looking for fresh new ideas as we move forward. Also, remember to stay in touch with your alma mater. We are eager to hear about your accomplishments! If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Alumni Coordinator Sheri Storlie at 330-363-1178.

As many will tell you, completing nursing school was the hardest thing you might ever do in your life. It’s draining mentally, physically and emotionally. Before I had even completed my ASN at Aultman College in December 2011, I already had President Crowl on my back to be the first to enroll in the up and coming RN to BSN program. So here I am almost halfway through my second semester of the program. It’s a lot easier the second time around. I am now an experienced nurse. I have experiences to back up my thought process and scenarios I can relate to. I even have an existing social life this time around.

I have a group of awesome fellow classmates who have even more in-depth experiences to share from neonatal to cardio and even an RN who works with the insurance aspect of health care. It’s no longer about taking notes and listening to every last word the instructor says, but more about a group discussing situations and helping each other to think differently and outside of our own individual boxes. We still have tests and plenty of papers to write, but the papers are half as challenging as anything I remember from the ASN program; the tests aren’t as stressful either. I did not feel like I was ready to start back to school but, the truth of the matter is, it’s more enjoyable now. It’s something I can relate to and incorporate into my practice on a daily basis. If you’re considering going back I recommend being like Nike and “just do it.” It will have to be done sooner or later so, while you’re still on that study grind, go get that BSN!
The 2013-2014 Alumni Phone-a-Thon Coming Soon!

Aultman College students, faculty and staff will be calling for support April 7-9. The annual phone-a-thon raises money for the 1892 Campaign and is an important tool for funding student scholarships. Education is expensive and with your support, students have the opportunity of a better life through higher education. Your investment has the ability to promote academic achievement and make it possible for students to pursue their dream. Consider a donation and “answer that call”!

Bonnets to Berets …

a History of Hats

Whether a fashion or political statement, hats have had a fascinating place in women’s history. Sally Whiston will work her way through history as she introduces you to a variety of hats beginning with Martha Washington’s mob cap – then sharing stories of the 1800s bonnets, Victorian hats, cloches of the 1920s and Jackie Kennedy’s pill boxes. “Bonnets to Berets” will be presented on the Aultman College campus Wednesday, Aug. 13 at 12:30 p.m. Many of you attended Sally’s presentation of Unsinkable Molly Brown last year, and we are pleased to welcome her back for another day of reminiscing. Registration for the event is $10 and includes lunch. Contact Alumni Coordinator Sheri Storlie at 330-363-1178 to reserve your seat.
From the Archives

Students sitting through lecture – 1950s

Radiography students – 2010

1997 Graduates – Back row: Steven Croston, Marsha Miller, Heather (Lowry) Rhoades, Diane Koval, Melissa Flack, Angela (Caldwell) Mcgee, Robert Miller
Front row: Julie (Basinger) Hawk, Shannon (Dehart) Simpson, Carol Williams, Lori George, Rhonda (Chovan) McCoy and Jennifer (Schrock) Gauer - 1997

Nursing students Carol (Puscher) Vaughn, Alice Nannah, Martha (Marshall) Holter and instructor Mrs. Unkefer – 1967

Nursing students – 2008

Radiography positioning lab – 2011
Aultman College Alumni Association President Angela (Caldwell) McGee (1997) and Vice President Jen Brackman (2004) attended the 2014 International Stroke Conference. Both presented posters on the Bundled Payment Initiative at Aultman Health Foundation. Jen Brackman was a podium presenter and was invited to participate in a panel discussion at the Nursing and Rehabilitation Professionals luncheon. Thank you, ladies, for your representation at the Stroke Conference!

Heather (Bowditch) Fravel (2009) recently obtained her MSN in Healthcare Systems Management from Loyola University in New Orleans. Congratulations, Heather!

Congratulations to Joyce (Cummings) Hein (1985) who received her BSN from Ohio University.

Yvonne Haney, RN, ONC (2008) and Melissa (Riese) Schnegg BSN, RN, ONC (2009) recently received their orthopedic nurse certification.

The Class of 1958 organized two reunions this year to reminisce about their days at Aultman Hospital School of Nursing. Thirteen graduates were in attendance at both get-togethers.

Great job to Jane Sewell, BSN, RN, CEN (2004) for achieving her Certified Emergency Nurse credential!

Condolences:
Aultman College extends deepest sympathies to the families of:

- Sherry (Moran) Renier (1964)
- Shirley (Hammersly) Bailous (1965)
- Karin (Hoom) Dudas (1959)
- Karen Leach (1971)
- Sandra (Glass) Martin (1966)
- Jeanetta (Mizer) Sheneman (1951)
- Helen (Anderson) MacAllister (1951)
- Ardella Hager (1954)
Mark Your Calendars!

Alumni Association Meeting
March 25, 2014 at 4 p.m., Founders’ Room

Annual Spring Dinner
Friday, April 25
Join us at Skyland Pines as we celebrate the class of 1964. Please see page 11 for your registration form. To confirm your reservation, please return your completed registration form to Aultman College by April 18.

May Graduation
Join us in celebrating our newest graduates Friday, May 11 at 6 p.m. at R.G. Drage Career Technical Center.

Phone-A-Thon
April 7-9, 5-8 p.m.

Spotlight on History
Contact the alumni office to register for “Bonnets to Berets” – a visit through the history of hats
Wednesday, Aug. 13
12:30 p.m.
$10, includes lunch
RSVP to Sheri Storlie, alumni coordinator, at 330-363-1178.

Attention Classes of May 2009 and May 2013!
Aultman College is dedicated to improving our quality education. During the month of May, a short alumni survey will be coming your way via email. The purpose of the survey is to evaluate your Aultman College educational experience, employment trends and future plans as Aultman College graduates. Your responses are critical for the ASN program’s continued accreditation. If you have an updated email address, please contact the alumni office to update our records.