Looking Back on 125 Years:
1892-1940s

Class of 1909
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Correction
In our fall 2016 issue, there was a mix-up between two Harriets. In the Tradition of Service article, Harriet Jones (’43) is the alumna who should have been included as part of the “Greatest Generation” feature. And in the obituaries section, Harriet Shreve (’50) should have been listed. To read a corrected copy, please visit www.aultmancollege.edu/the-connection-newsletter.
The President’s Address

President Crowl

This year, we are celebrating the 125th anniversary of the founding of Aultman Hospital and Aultman Hospital Training School for Nurses. It was on January 17, 1892 that the hospital opened its doors to the Canton area. The first class of three nursing students started soon after – and only one made it to graduation. The curriculum was just as tough then as it is now.

As I reflected on our 125th anniversary, I realized that I have been at Aultman for one-third of that time – first as a nursing student, then as a nurse and administrator at the hospital, and now as the president of the college.

So much has changed. When I started, no one in the hospital wore gloves or masks when working with patients. We used paper charts. The night before my clinical assignment during nursing school, I went to the hospital unit to meet my patient, who may have a length of stay of seven to 10 days. I remember doing drug cards on index cards.

Now, we wear all kinds of protective equipment, and hand sanitizers are in every room. Computers are used for charting. And the average patient is only admitted for a day or two – our students work in a constantly changing environment during acute care clinicals. Drug cards are gone – they are now on the computer in the hospital, and formularies are available via cell phones.

It is estimated that knowledge doubles every 13 months – compared to doubling every 100 years back in 1900. “Change” is the only constant in the health care field.

It’s also the theme at Aultman College. This fall, we are accepting the first group of students for our four-year bachelor of science in nursing (BSN) program and our bachelor of science in health sciences (BSHS) program. It’s also the last semester we are accepting associate of science in nursing (ASN) students, who will complete their studies by May 2020.

Additionally, we are building and seeking approval for a health care-focused bachelor’s degree in social work. We are working with Walsh University on a master of science in nursing (MSN) partnership for students in our BSN Completion Program. Stay tuned for news as this develops.

We are evaluating our facilities and housing options for an influx of new students.

Aultman College is going to look very different in 10 years, let alone 125 years. And I think that’s a good thing.

Rebecca J. Crowl, President
Looking Back on 125 Years: 1892-1940s

1892 IN HISTORY

- The U.S. flag only had 44 stars
- Benjamin Harrison was president
- Ellis Island opened as an immigrant inspection station
- The first official basketball game is played at a YMCA
- John Muir organized the Sierra Club
- Thomas Edison received a patent for a two-way telegraph
- The Pledge of Allegiance is first recited in unison by students in U.S. public schools
- Vogue magazine launched

Today, a potential student enters the Aultman College building and takes an elevator to the second floor. He proceeds to the office, meets with one of the recruiters, and receives a tour of the facilities. He views the Skills, Simulation, and Radiography labs where he will get hands-on experience before he works with patients. He will see the chemistry, microbiology, and anatomy and physiology labs where classroom lessons become tactile. He will meet with students, talk with faculty and staff, and then leave to ponder his collegiate goals.
Compare that to the experience of Emma Lupher back in 1892. After reading about the new hospital, she headed to the outskirts of Canton in mud that was often described as knee deep. She wanted to see if Aultman Hospital needed any help. She walked into the front doors and met Elizabeth B. Lewis, the first superintendent, who was scrubbing the floor. The two women spoke, and Lupher decided she would attend the Aultman Hospital Training School for Nurses. She made her own uniform and went to work.

The life of a nursing student, or “probationer,” back in the 1890s was tough. At the Aultman Hospital Training School for Nurses, students worked 10- to 12-hour shifts seven days a week. They started with maid duties – dusting, scrubbing, and washing dishes. As they progressed in the program over two to three years, they attended lectures by members of the hospital staff and received daily instruction from the nursing superintendent.
Out of three students who began at the school, Lupher was the only one who made it to graduation on May 2, 1894. There were no graduates in 1895, and two students graduated in 1896.

The early 1900s saw three major changes to the nursing school. First, the Nurses’ Home was built in 1914, allowing more students to live on the hospital grounds. Then, in 1916, the school was officially registered in Ohio as the Aultman Hospital Training School for Nurses. The school also moved to an official three-year curriculum, expanding the scope of classes and clinicals. Students spent three months at Akron Children’s Hospital and four months at Cleveland City Hospital, learning about babies, infant feeding, cultures, and micro-organisms. New courses included nursing history, hospital housekeeping, urinalysis, pathology, and nursing of the skin.

In 1927, the largest-yet class of 25 students began at the school – only 18 remained the following year. During the 1930s, students’ days started at 6:30 a.m. with chapel and inspection before heading to the hospital at 7 a.m. They cared for up to six patients in the ward – bathing them, changing them, and helping them with breakfast. At 9 a.m., they returned to the classroom for lectures. After lunch, they finished their shift at the hospital. Students had to be in their rooms by 8:30 p.m. and lights out at 10 p.m. They could only go home for one night per month to visit family and friends.

The 1940s brought many changes to the school. The Cadet Nurses Corps Program began, and a $174,000 grant was awarded to the Aultman and Mercy nursing schools to provide free training to student nurses who promised to work in underserved areas for the duration of the war. In 1943, the school changed its name to the “Aultman Hospital School of Nursing” and celebrated its Golden Jubilee in 1944 with a graduating class of 35, the largest in school history.

Also that year, construction began on the Morrow House to accommodate the growing student nurse population. Lupher returned to lay the cornerstone of the dorm, which could house 265 students. It was named in honor of Ida Steiner Morrow, the 11th graduate of the Aultman Hospital Training School for Nurses.

Above: Extra buttons and cuff links for nursing uniforms.

Right: Bandage scissors circa 1941. These were to be carried in the waist of one’s apron.

Cadet nurse corps patches.
THE REST OF THE STORY

We’ve covered the history of the school up through the 1940s, and now it’s your turn. We want to hear the unwritten stories of the Aultman Hospital School of Nursing and Aultman College. Whether you graduated last year or 60-plus years ago, whether you graduated in nursing, radiography, or health sciences – send us your anecdotes, serious or funny. Email Jenn Loretto at Jenn.Loretto@aultman.com or call 330-363-9374 by Friday, June 16, 2017.

We will use the anecdotes for the feature story in our fall issue of the Connection.

WAGES FOR STUDENT NURSES

Between 1915 and 1918, students were paid $6 a month during their first year, $9 a month for their second year, and $12 a month for their third year. For their first nursing job after graduation, they would earn about 50 cents an hour. For perspective, a loaf of bread cost 7 cents and a dozen eggs were 34 cents.
Congratulations

Fall 2016 Graduation

More than 30 graduates walked the stage on Dec. 16 at RG Drage Technical Career Center to collect their diplomas and receive the congratulations of family, friends, and college faculty and staff. There were 10 graduates from the BSN Completion Program, three graduates from the associate of science in health sciences (the first group of graduates ever from this program), and 18 graduates from the ASN program.

Aultman College Hosted Third Annual Simulation Symposium

More than 40 attended the third annual Simulation Symposium at Aultman College on October 15.

The theme of the event was “Linking Simulation to the Bedside” and featured a variety of presenters addressing clinical and educational topics in the health care profession.

The sessions featured case studies and demonstrations of various simulation exercises, including a “what’s wrong with this picture” type evaluation of a patient’s room environment; a research study on a hospital’s use of code blue simulation to improve outcomes; a look at the “before and after” results from a simulation that taught staff how to react to a combative patient during a code silver; and a presentation about teaching nursing students the use of SBARR (situation, background, assessment, recommendation, and response) during patient handoffs. Staff and faculty members from Aultman College, Aultman Hospital, Hocking College, and Summa Health System were among the presenters.

The event also featured a session on nursing law, as well as a “simulation war” competition with teams from Kent State University’s Tuscarawas and Stark campuses, Walsh University, and Aultman College participating.
Welcome to our Social Work Program Director

Ron Davis, MSW, began his role as director of the Social Work program in January at Aultman College. Previously, he served as director for social support services at Crossroads Hospice and Palliative Care, as well as teaching undergraduate courses at the University of Akron.

Davis is overseeing the development of a bachelor’s degree level social work program and is leading efforts for approval with the necessary accrediting bodies. The Social Work program will fulfill a growing need for social workers in health care roles who can assist clients in understanding and navigating through an increasingly complicated environment, particularly in the areas of mental health and addiction services.

Aultman College Has Highest NCLEX Rate in the Region

Among the other nursing programs at colleges and universities in the Akron-Canton region, Aultman College had the highest institutional passage rate on the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX).

In 2016, 96.72 percent of the first-time test takers from Aultman College passed the NCLEX, which is the nationwide exam for the licensing of nurses. These are students who graduated from the college's Associate of Science in Nursing (ASN) program and took the test for the first time in 2016.

In addition to being the highest in the region, Aultman College’s rate was well above the Ohio passage rate of 81.12% percent and the national passage rate of 84.56% percent.

“Our passage rate is higher than that of nursing programs that are several times our size, speaking to the quality of our graduates and the instruction and preparation they receive here at Aultman College,” said Jo Ann Donnenwirth, Ed.D.(c), MSN, dean of nursing and allied health. “Our associate’s degree in nursing program has a tradition of excellence, one that will be carried on by our bachelor’s degree program that is beginning this fall.”

Aultman College Receives Approval for BSHS Degree

Aultman College received final approval from the Higher Learning Commission to begin offering the bachelor of science in health sciences (BSHS) program.

Through the BSHS program, students can take a general health sciences curriculum or specialize in health care administration or health education.

“Health care is the largest growing job industry in the country, but there’s a misconception that the only career opportunities are for direct patient care,” said Dr. Amanda Espenschied-Reilly, dean of general education and online learning. “There is a growing need for bachelor’s degree-prepared health educators and professionals with administrative knowledge. By 2020, 82% of health care jobs will require bachelor’s degrees and other forms of postsecondary education.”

Another key aspect of the BSHS program is its appeal to current certificate, diploma, and associate’s degree holders. “We are able to take a look at previously earned educational credits for radiologic technologists and certified medical assistants, for example. They may actually be closer to a bachelor’s degree than they think,” said Dr. Jeffrey L. Pellegrino, BSHS program director and professor.

To learn more about the program, which will take its first students this fall, visit www.aultmancollege.edu/bachelor-of-science-in-health-sciences.
Aultman College Faculty Member Leads Infant CPR Research Study

Many health care practitioners are familiar with the two-thumb and hand circling method for infant CPR. But laypeople are taught a two-finger technique. Is one method better than the other? And what are the challenges when you teach non-medical personnel these other methods?

Those are the questions the American Red Cross wanted answered when it came to Dr. Jeffrey L. Pellegrino for assistance with the infant CPR protocols research study. Pellegrino, director of the Health Sciences program and professor at Aultman College, has done extensive work with the Red Cross and serves on the International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation, which reviews and issues CPR consensus on science and treatment recommendations used by the American Heart Association and American Red Cross for guidelines.

Working with the Aultman Hospital Birth Center, Access Health Stark County, and Canton City Schools, Pellegrino has been teaching everyone from middle school students to great grandparents, assisted by community health workers and Aultman College students, both infant CPR methods.

“We are still collecting data, but we’ve already observed some things. The two-finger method is a challenge for people with longer fingernails. Taller people have difficulties when they are using two thumbs,” he said. “It’s also been wonderful to work with the students in school. They are excited to be a part of a study and see how their work can influence something big.”

The study also supports the Aultman Health Foundation’s goal of reducing infant mortality in Stark County. “This study is a real win-win situation for everyone involved,” Pellegrino said.
Aultman College Student Crunches Data for Statewide Study on Premature Births

Karen Youtsey, RN, an Aultman College BSN completion student and lead RN/Centering Pregnancy Coordinator with Aultman Medical Group Maternity and Women’s Health, was one of the statistics leads on the Progesterone Promotion Project. This state-wide research project with the Ohio Perinatal Quality Collaborative (OPQC) studied the use of progesterone to reduce preterm deliveries and infant mortality rates. She tracked and recorded all of the statistics for Aultman Hospital.

Overall, the project led to an incredible 20 percent reduction in premature births before 32 weeks of pregnancy for Ohio women insured by Medicaid.

An article based on the research, “A Statewide Progesterone Promotion Program in Ohio,” has been accepted for publication in an upcoming issue of the American College of Obstetrics & Gynecology’s Green Journal.

Aultman College Part of Independent College Day at the Statehouse

Nicole Sinnett, president of the Student Senate at Aultman College, traveled to Columbus in early February to take part in the 2017 Independent College Day at the Statehouse. She met with State Rep. Thomas West.

Rad Students Design T-shirts

A group of second-year radiography students pose in the T-shirts that they designed.

Go Red Day

College faculty and staff posed for a photo on National Wear Red Day, as part of the American Heart Association’s Go Red for Women awareness campaign.

Students Tie the Knot for Patients

In January, students gathered and made 50 fleece tie blankets for patients at Aultman Hospital.
Welcome to Our New Board Members

The board of directors has approved the appointment of three new members, who are serving three-year terms that began in January 2017.

The new board members are as follows: Susie Frew, BSN, RN, with the Carroll County General Health District; Stephen Passerini, M.D., radiologist with Aultman Hospital Radiography Associates; and Rafael Rodriguez, business development manager at Canton Community Improvement Corporation.

Radiography Students Lends Her Heart and Hands to Haitian Orphanage

Who do you consider “family”? For first-year radiography student Julie Neading, it’s not just her parents and siblings – it’s also the 100 children, teachers, and staff of Loyal Oaks Community Chapel Children’s Home in Despinos, Haiti.

For the past five years, Neading and her family have traveled to Haiti to volunteer at the orphanage and school, which serves students ranging in age from six months to 17 years old.

Five years ago, Neading and her family got involved with the orphanage through their church’s work with Imagine Missions, the U.S.-based group that supports the children’s home. The Haitian orphanage resides on 10 acres of land and includes dormitories, a school, clinics, a church, kitchen/dining room, and other facilities. The staff includes teachers, medical personnel, dorm “parents,” preachers, laundry and kitchen workers, and more.
Neading travels to Haiti once every several months to lend a hand. “I basically do whatever they need: play, build, organize,” she said.

She explained that most of the children at Imagine Missions are not true “orphans.” “Their parents either can’t take care or don’t want to take care of them,” she said. “It took a while for me to grasp that.”

Neading has a special connection with one of the boys at the orphanage named Stiley. “He was the first kid who grabbed my hand when I went there. He’s 9 now, and we are best friends,” she said. “When I arrive, he comes running from across the way. Nothing beats that feeling.”

She also visits with another boy at the center, whom her family was going to adopt. “But the Haitian government stopped all adoption processes and changed the rules,” she recalled. “He would have had to be transferred to another facility before the adoption, which wasn’t as nice as Loyal Oaks. So we let him stay at the orphanage.”

Neading is planning her next trip for this spring when finals are over. “They are my family,” she said. “It’s always hard when I leave, but I know I’ll be back again.”

For more information on the orphanage, visit imaginemissions.org.
We asked Chris Jurovcik ('13), RN, BSN, who is the home hospice case manager with the Aultman Compassionate Care Center, to share more about some of her favorite things.


2. Favorite music: Show tunes.

3. Favorite food: Italian.


5. Where is your favorite vacation spot? Colorado or Disney.


7. Favorite way to spend a Saturday morning: Sleeping in late!

8. If you could witness any event of the past, present, or future, what would it be? I would choose to spend time with Mother Teresa. She provided us a road map of how to love all people and reminded us of what is really important in life and living.

9. What is your favorite memory of your time at Aultman College? So many to choose from! I would say the comradery of students was great. Though we varied in so many ways, we all shared one goal!

10. Why do you give to Aultman College? It only seems right to give back to the institution that helped me achieve my dreams! And the need to keep investing in the field of nursing is vital. There will always be a great need for great nurses.
Condolences

Shirley A. (Hammersly) Bailous (’65)
Jane (Russell) Brugger (’47)
Ruth (Krahling) Dalessandro (’57)
Judy (Rowley) Dennis (’63)
Beryl (Murphy) Eshelman (’55)
Judith Ann (Born) Heestand (’64)
Mary Frances (Demass) Hensley (’47)
Judy M. (Michael) Hoover (’68)
Sherry (Hauenstein) Ketter (’56)
Helen (Mikunda) Lonce (’47)
Kathryn I (Peters) Moon (’58)
Nora (Miller) Sommers (’63)
Clara (McDonald) Steinbach (’47)
Rebecca Wassem (’68)
Carol (Davis) Wasson (’62)
Roberta (Moles) Wolf (’59)
Dolores (Thompson) Zeltman (’57)

Because of You

Aultman College provides the tools students need to become successful health care practitioners, including close collaborations with faculty and staff, opportunities for community service, and hands-on experiences that will help them achieve their goals. In 2016-17, we awarded more than 80 scholarships totaling over $120,000, the largest amount in college history! Because of you, our students are making a difference; they are learning to be outstanding health care professionals who will positively impact our community. While this is outstanding progress, the need for scholarships is great. If you are interested in making a gift to Aultman College, or want to learn more about how your contribution has made a difference, we would love to meet with you. Please contact Vi Leggett at 330.363.6183 for a personal follow-up. In addition, you can give on line by visiting our website at www.aultmancollege.edu and clicking on the “Gift” button.