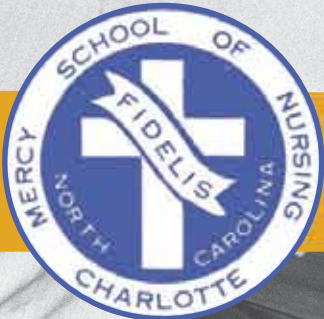


One

ALUMNI NEWS
SPRING 2016



REMEMBERING OUR PAST.
CELEBRATING OUR LEGACY

MERCY SCHOOL OF NURSING
ALUMNI AND FRIENDS WEEKEND
MAY 13 AND 14, 2016



Carolinas HealthCare System



Debbie Blackwell

Dean

Deborah.Blackwell@CarolinasHealthCare.org

From the Dean

MERCY SCHOOL OF NURSING IS 110!

It is hard to imagine that 110 years ago this year Mercy School of Nursing began its mission of educating nurses. Yes, Mercy General Hospital and Mercy Hospital School of Nursing were established together in 1906 by the Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina. The original hospital was a 25-bed wooden frame building located on East First Street in downtown Charlotte. In 1916, the new Mercy Hospital opened on its present site between East Fifth Street and Vail Avenue, with the School of Nursing facilities added in 1922. Mercy Hospital South, a 120-bed hospital located in Pineville, NC, opened in 1987. In 1995, Carolinas HealthCare System acquired both hospitals and Mercy School of Nursing. Mercy School of Nursing moved from its original Vail Avenue location to its current location at Forest Point Circle in 2006 when Carolinas Medical Center-Mercy expanded its patient care campus.

Mercy School of Nursing graduated its first class of four students in 1908. Since that time more than 3,000 Mercy graduates have entered the nursing profession and are serving in varied roles and settings. Originally, Mercy School of Nursing was a three-year diploma program.

Beginning in the fall of 1993, the School of Nursing became a two-year diploma program and then an 18-month program in the late 90's. Mercy School of Nursing has always been an innovator in nursing education and increased program options to offer an accelerated program and a weekend-evening program in the mid 2000's. The program has been fully accreditation by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission, now the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing, since 1966. In addition, Mercy School of Nursing received the NCNA Hallmarks of Healthy Workplaces designation and was the first school of nursing to receive that honor.

You are all part of the rich history of Mercy School of Nursing and so I would like to invite you to come and celebrate its 110 years of history. Even though the doors of Mercy School of Nursing will be closing at the end of May 2016, its legacy will live on in all of you.

There is a wonderful weekend planned starting with the last graduation on May 13, 2016 and culminating with the Celebrating Mercy Gala at the Crowne Plaza on Saturday evening, May 14, 2016. Please come and reconnect with your classmates, friends and faculty as we remember our past and celebrate the legacy of Mercy School of Nursing. I am looking forward to seeing you there.

Deborah A. Blackwell, Ph.D., RNC, WHCNP, CNE
Dean



Yolanda Moore
MSON Alumni Association President

President's Note

To all Mercy School of Nursing (MSON) alumni, I bring you greetings on behalf of the Alumni Association.

My name is Yolanda Moore and I am the new MSON Alumni Association President. I have some very big shoes to fill as I strive to continue all of the wonderful work done by our outgoing president, Lisa Mundt Foster '86. The MSON Alumni Association was reinstated in 2012 and has been fortunate to host several events over the years to reconnect alumni, serve the community, and support our beloved school.

By now I'm sure that all of you have heard that Mercy School of Nursing will be closing its doors in May of this year. As much as I was saddened by this news, it brought to mind a very popular quote from Dr. Seuss, "Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened." Mercy "happened" to all of us and made us the nurses that we are today. While we may have struggled through some intense coursework and some challenging clinical scenarios, we forged new friendships, learned critical-thinking skills, and emerged as competent nurses along the way. I know that my time at Mercy

was filled with many memories that I will carry with me for years to come. Mercy School of Nursing has a very rich history and we plan to keep that history alive through the Alumni Association. As a member, I have had the opportunity to meet some of our more "seasoned" alumni who have the most wonderful stories to share. I have met some of the newer grads and had the opportunity to talk with them about what to expect in the real world of nursing.

So, no matter when you graduated, the Alumni Association is here for you to stay connected, network and keep the school's history alive. Big plans are in the works to commemorate the school's closing. I invite you to attend for some great fun and entertainment as we close those doors with a "BIG BANG!" Beyond that, the doors of the Alumni Association are always open for you and we welcome you with open arms.

Yolanda Moore- Class of 2003

Share *Your* Story

A priority of the Mercy School of Nursing Alumni Association is to preserve the legacy of the school. One of the ways to do that is by collecting the stories of our fascinating alumni.

Start thinking about your most memorable MSON moments, career highlights, those little things that had a profound effect on you as a healthcare professional, or just plain laugh-out-loud funny stuff.

We want it all!

SEND YOUR STORIES TO:

Email: Ruthie.Mihal@CarolinasHealthCare.org

Mail: Mercy School of Nursing
Attn: Ruthie Mihal
701-B Forest Point Circle
Charlotte, NC 28273

Deadline for submissions is April 30, 2016.

Nominate a Fellow Alum for a Distinguished Alumnus Award

MSON plans to recognize a select few of its graduates for their outstanding accomplishments and exemplary contributions to the healthcare field and/or their community. Distinguished Alumni Awards will be presented during the Celebrating Mercy Gala on Saturday, May 14.

To nominate a fellow alumnus, contact Ruthie Mihal for details. Deadline for submissions: April 1, 2016.



Charlotte

An amazing city with history, culture and so much more. We've allowed a bit of "down-time" in the event schedule so you can experience the great things the Queen City has to offer. Below are some options for Friday evening, Saturday afternoon or Sunday.

Things to do...

Charlotte Daily City Tours: Segway, Walking, Van or Bike Tours

Charlotte NC Tours
101 S. Tryon Street
(704) 962-4548
Charlottenctours.com

Charlotte Center City Carriage Tours

Horse drawn carriage rides
through Charlotte
(704) 301- 5111

Improv Comedy Show by Charlotte Comedy Theater Wet Willies

900 Seaboard Street
Cost: \$10
(803) 792-1608
charlottecomedytheater.com

EpiCentre

210 E. Trade Street
Charlotte, NC 28202
Epicentrenc.com

Walking Food Tours FEAST: Food Tours & Culinary Events, Inc.

(980) 258-9992
feastfoodtours.com

African Drum Circle Event

Friday, May 14, 10:00 am - 4:00pm
Historic Latta Plantation
5225 Sample Rd.
Huntersville, NC 28078
(704) 875-2312
lattaplantation.org

The Addams Family

May 13 – May 29
Theatre Charlotte
501 Queens Rd.
Charlotte, NC 28207
(704) 376-3777
theatrecharlotte.org

Cooking Class:

Start At The Market, Keep It Local
Sat., May 14 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Mimosa Grill
327 South Tryon St.
Charlotte, NC 28202
(704) 343-0700
harpersgroup.com/mimosa.asp

Enter the Dragon: A Contemporary Chinese and Chinese American Art Exhibit

November, 2015 – May 30, 2016
The Charlotte Museum of History
3500 Shamrock Dr.
Charlotte, NC 28215
(704) 568-1774
charlottemuseum.org

Assembling The Prints: Art Of The Portfolio Bechtler Museum of Modern Art

January – June 22, 2016
420 South Tryon St.
Charlotte, NC 28202
(704) 353-9200
bechtler.org

Dance Theatre of Harlem: 40 Years of Firsts

Harvey B. Gantt Center for African
American Arts+Culture
January – June 28, 2016
551 S Tryon St., Charlotte, NC 28202
(704) 547-3700
ganttcenter.org

¡NUEVO!ution!

Latinos and the New South

January – October, 2016
Levine Museum of the New South
200 East 7th St.
Charlotte, NC 28202
(704) 333-1887
museumofthenewsouth.org

MUSEUMS & ATTRACTIONS:

CAROWINDS AMUSEMENT PARK

(Open until 10 pm, Carowinds is
perfect for the family!)
14523 Carowinds Blvd.
Charlotte, NC 28273
(803) 548-5300
carowinds.com

DISCOVERY PLACE

(Charlotte's renowned science
museum. Great for kids or adults!)
301 North Tryon St.
Charlotte, NC 28202
discoveryplace.org

U.S. NATIONAL WHITewater CENTER

(Zip line, white water rafting, climbing
walls, ropes courses and dinner too!)
5000 Whitewater Center Pkwy.
Charlotte, NC 28214
(704) 391-3900
usnwc.org

THE BECHTLER MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

(From Picasso to Miro to Dali, this
breathtaking museum has earned a
place on every visitors
"must see" list.)
420 South Tryon St.
Charlotte, NC 28202
(704) 353-9200
bechtler.org

CONT.



Things to do (continued)

LEVINE MUSEUM OF THE NEW SOUTH

200 East 7th St.
Charlotte, NC 28202
(704) 333-1887
museumofthenewsouth.org

THE HARVEY B. GANTT CENTER FOR AFRICAN-AMERICAN ARTS + CULTURE

551 South Tryon St.
Charlotte, NC 28202
(704) 374-1565
ganttcenter.org

NASCAR HALL OF FAME

400 East Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Charlotte, NC 28202
(704) 654-4400
nascarhall.com

MINT MUSEUM UPTOWN

500 South Tryon St.
Charlotte, NC 28202
(704) 337-2000
mintmuseum.org

SEA LIFE Charlotte-Concord Aquarium

Concord Mills Mall
(located at Entrance 7 in the
Concord Mills Mall)
8111 Concord Mills Blvd.
Concord, North Carolina 28027

RESTAURANTS NEAR THE CROWN PLAZA

The Cowfish Sushi Burger Bar

4 miles
Shuttle service available;
call for information.
Open for lunch and dinner.
Dress code: Casual.
(704) 365-1922

McCormick & Schmick's Seafood & Steaks

4 miles
Open for lunch and dinner.
Dress code: Dress Jeans.
(704) 442-5522

Brio Tuscan Grille

3 miles
Open for lunch and dinner.
Dress code: Casual.
(704) 571-4214

Maggiano's Little Italy®

4 miles
Open for lunch and dinner.
Dress code: Casual.
(704) 916-2300

The Palm Restaurant

4.5 miles
Open for lunch and dinner.
Dress code: Shirt/Slacks Required
(704) 552-7256

Upstream Seafood

4 miles
Open for lunch and dinner.
Dress code: Dress Jeans.
(704) 556-7730

Ruth's Chris Steak House

3 miles
Open for dinner.
Dress code: Shirt/Slacks Required
(704) 556-1115

P. F. Chang's China Bistro

4.5 miles
Open for lunch and dinner.
Dress code: Casual.
(704) 552-6644

The Cheesecake Factory

4 miles
Open for lunch and dinner.
Dress code: Casual.
(704) 770-0076

Barrington's

5.5 miles
Open for dinner.
Dress code: Shirt/Slacks Required
(704) 364-5755

Del Frisco's Double Eagle Steak House

3 miles
Open for dinner.
Dress code: Shirt/Slacks Required
(704) 552-5502

Rooster's Wood Fired Kitchen

4 miles
Open for lunch and dinner.
Dress code: Casual.
(704) 366-8688

For additional information on Charlotte attractions visit:

charlottesgotalot.com

Dance

Through The Decades With MSON!

At Saturday night's Celebrating Mercy Gala, FUN will be the main event! In addition to the to-die-for dinner, a chance to catch up and network with classmates, and recognition of some very special people in the audience, the evening will culminate with a dance extravaganza put on by you! No dance partner is required, just the

willingness to get up (at your seat or on the dance floor), kick up your heels, and have a fun time.

Professional dancers from the Charlotte Arthur Murray Dance Studio, with the help of our DJ, will lead us through some of the most memorable dance steps of the decades.



Class Photo Schedule

On Saturday, May 14, a photographer will be on-hand at the Celebrating Mercy Gala to take class photos. Check out the schedule below and be sure to report to the photography area at your scheduled time for your class photo!

CLASS PHOTO SCHEDULE

Classes 1906-1959 6:30 pm
Classes 1960-1969 6:40 pm
Classes 1970-1979 6:50 pm

BREAK FOR DINNER AND PROGRAM

Classes 1980-1989 9:00 pm
Classes 1990-1999 9:10 pm
Classes 2000-2009 9:20 pm
Classes 2010-2015 9:30 pm

Not Sure What To Wear To The Gala?

Don't let the term "gala" throw you for a loop! The suggested attire is dressy casual to semi-formal. So, pull out that cocktail or little black dress you've been saving for a special occasion – but if that's really not your style – a dressy pants outfit will be perfect too. Think of it as what you'd wear to an upscale wedding.

How To Get Around

Area Airport: Charlotte Douglas International Airport - CLT
The hotel provides complimentary shuttle service to and from the airport. Once you land, head to baggage claim and call the Crowne Plaza from the courtesy phones or your cell phone at (704) 527-9650 to request pick up.

Other Options Include:

Limousine and Shuttle Service

Limousine or shuttle service can be prearranged by contacting one of the various providers that are licensed to provide transportation services at Charlotte Douglas International Airport. The list can be found on the airport's website: <http://charmeck.org/city/charlotte/Airport/GroundTransportation>

Limousines, limousine sedans and shuttle or van services are available only by pre-arrangement between passenger and service provider.

Car Rentals located at Charlotte Douglas International Airport

Advantage	1-800-777-5500
Alamo	1-877-222-9075
Avis	1-800-633-3469
Budget	1-800-218-7992
Dollar	1-800-800-4000
Enterprise	1-800-261-7331
Hertz	1-800-654-3131
National	1-877-222-9058
Sixt	1-888-749-8227 *off-site location
Thrifty	1-800-847-4389 *off site location

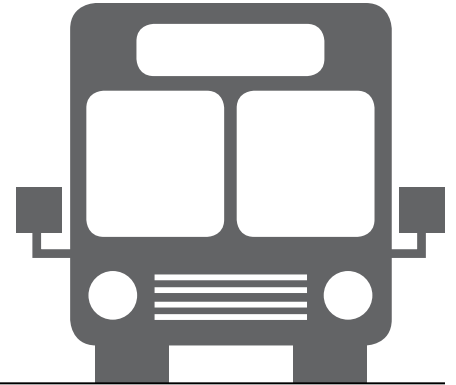
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How To Get Around (continued)

Need a Ride to the Friday Graduation Activities? No Problem!

MSON has arranged for a complimentary chartered shuttle to transport hotel guests to and from both the graduation ceremony at Trinity Presbyterian Church and the welcome reception at CMC-Mercy Hospital. However, if you prefer to drive, there will be ample free parking at both events.



Transportation for Friday Evening Plans

Planning to head out to explore the beautiful Queen City? Taxis are available from the hotel. The estimated fare to Uptown Charlotte is \$25. Uber is also a great alternative. Simply download the free app from the App Store on your smart phone.

Check out the list of area attractions and restaurants found in this newsletter on pages 4 and 5 or contact Ruthie Mihal at 704-609-1542 or Ruthie.Mihal@CarolinasHealthCare.org

Your Home Away From Home... Crowne Plaza Charlotte Executive Park

5700 Westpark Drive Charlotte, NC 28217 866-380-0612

Located minutes from Charlotte Douglas International Airport, this property has recently undergone a \$10 million renovation, including guest rooms and public spaces, and features fresh, locally-sourced menu items at its Food for Thought restaurant. And award-winning area attractions including Carowinds Theme Park, Bank of America Stadium, and Time Warner Cable Arena are all a short distance away.

Treat yourself to some shopping at SouthPark Mall, the Carolina's premier luxury shopping destination, anchored by Belk, Dillard's, Macy's, Nordstrom, and Neiman Marcus. Visitors experience world-class shopping in an atmosphere bathed in natural sunlight, complemented by marble floors and cherry wood. SouthPark is home to some of the finest shopping in the Carolinas, offering a

selection of luxury shops including American Girl, Burberry, Louis Vuitton, Tiffany & Co., Kate Spade, and more. Or, if you prefer some outlet shopping – plan a trip to Charlotte Premium Outlets.



Crowne Plaza offers shuttle service to both the outlets and SouthPark Mall.

You can make hotel reservations online at: <http://bit.ly/MSONROOMS> or by calling the hotel at: 866-380-0612. Be sure to identify yourself as part of the Mercy School of Nursing room block. A special rate of \$114/day will be good until April 22, 2016, or until our room block is full.

Complimentary on-site parking is available. For additional hotel information visit:

<http://www.ihg.com/crowneplaza/hotels/us/en/charlotte/cltcp/hoteldetail>



Schedule of Events

FRIDAY, MAY 13

Mercy School of Nursing Graduation Ceremony
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Trinity Presbyterian Church
3115 Providence Road
Charlotte, NC 28211

The spring graduation ceremony not only marks the completion of an 18-month diploma program for 30 nursing students – it is also the final commencement ceremony for Mercy School of Nursing. Alumni will be invited to process in before the graduates to special seating and will also be recognized during the ceremony.

Welcome Reception and Hospital Tours

4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Carolinas Medical Center – Mercy
Spirit of Mercy History Room
2001 Vail Avenue
Charlotte, NC 28207

Stop by the spectacular Spirit of Mercy History Room located on the mezzanine level of CMC-Mercy for a welcome reception and to see memorabilia that all alumni are sure to recognize and enjoy. Hospital tours will also be offered and heavy hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be served.

SATURDAY, MAY 14

Come Home to Mercy Open House
9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Pay a visit to Mercy School of Nursing to tour the school and peruse memorabilia while visiting with fellow alumni.

Celebrating Mercy Gala

6 p.m. to 10 p.m.
\$50 per person Includes three-course dinner and one drink ticket.

Crowne Plaza
5700 Westpark Drive
Charlotte, NC 28217

Registration and cocktail hour begins at 6 p.m.
Dinner begins at 7 p.m.

Other activities include: Special video retrospectives, dancing through the decades, interactive entertainment by Arthur Murray® professional dancers, photo booth and professional class portraits.

If you have questions, please contact: Ruthie Mihal, Ruthie.Mihal@CarolinasHealthCare.org. (704) 609-1542. Look for more details in the upcoming alumni newsletter.

Special
Thanks To



Always a Step Ahead

CHARLOTTE: (704) 544-0222
LAKE NORMAN: (704) 895-5575
charlottearthurmurray.com

Do you need to order...

A replacement class pin?

Contact: Deborah Forrest
Herff Jones, A Varsity ACHIEVEMENT Brand
P: 704.962.1483 | deborah.forrest@mac.com

MSON Logo Merchandise?

Order MSON logo merchandise online at the following link until May 30, 2016: <http://stores.inksoft.com/mercy>

Starting June 1, 2016 MSON logo merchandise available at: http://stores.inksoft.com/cchs_store/Products

MSON Transcript?

MSON's transcript request process is now entirely online. Simply visit the following website below to be guided through the process: www.carolinashealthcare.org/transcript-requests

If you are experiencing an issue with the online transcript ordering process or for additional questions concerning transcripts, please contact the registrar at 704-355-6676.



Pam Hatley
Former MSON Director of Student
Services (Pam retired in August 2015)

Pam's Top Ten List

The 2014-15 academic year has come to a close and we are now in the final year of Mercy School of Nursing. Like many of you, I have many mixed emotions. This small school, the faculty, alumni and students have been a big part of my life over the past 25 years and I will miss it and you.

Over the last few months prior to my retirement, my main job was to archive the academic records of those who have come through this program. This turned into an unexpected pleasure. Reading the anecdotal records of students over a span of 100 years was a fascinating lesson in nursing education history and human nature. It occurred to me that, were I a creative writer, I would have enough material for a novel or two.

This task also left me curious about the students who came to MSON, but never completed the program. By my count, there were 1065 graduates and 659 non-completers between 1908 and 1969. Manila envelopes used to store these records noted the reason for departure. Most just simply withdrew (310) or were dismissed, usually for poor grades (225). Some left

to be married, some disliked nursing and some left for health reasons.

On a few occasions, the envelope notations were more specific. I wanted to share some of these. So, with apologies to David Letterman, I give you the top 10 reasons for leaving Mercy School of Nursing. Note of explanation: The year of the event is in parentheses and the words that follow are exactly as written or typed (with misspelled words intact). The statements in quotation marks are purely speculative.

- #10** - (1937) "I think I made a big mistake." - Miss ____ did not go on the hall at all. She only stayed overnite.
- #9** - (1952) "My knees are killing me!" - Left Training: Too old to adjust to nursing. (Note - she was 33)
- #8** - (1952) "I just can't decide." Left to get married but did not. Returned (1/27/54) and left the same day.
- #7** - (1953) "I'd rather be a nun than a nurse" - Left training to enter the convent at Belmont.
- #6** - (1951) "I love him, I really do!" - Left Training. Marriage on her mind. Not suited for Nursing.
- #5** - (1963) "Can't a girl have a little fun?" - Completed 933 days. Dismissed for possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages.
- #4** - (1946) "The white hat is really all I wanted." - Capped May 31, 1946. DID NOT RETURN TO SCHOOL AFTER CAPPING.
- #3** - (1954) "Thiazide? I thought it said thorazine." - Left Training. Gave wrong medicine.
- #2** - (1947) "But it was my bedtime." - Dismissed because she had left the hospital at 11 o'clock at night without permission.

AND the number 1 reason-

(1951) - "What? Don't we get breaks around here?" Miss____ was suspended from the school because of smoking on a patient's bed while she was on duty.



Carolinas HealthCare System

Mercy School of Nursing
701-B Forest Point Circle
Charlotte, NC 28273

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■ Scholarships for MSON Alumni!

MSON, along with the assistance of the Carolinas HealthCare Foundation, has made arrangements to repurpose some of the current MSON endowed student scholarships, for Mercy alumni. There will be two scholarships awarded each fall to MSON alumni that work within Carolinas HealthCare System who are pursuing advanced education. More details on the criteria and application process are to come.

What a great way to keep the Mercy legacy alive. Join fellow alumni in growing the corpus of these funds by making a tax-deductible gift either online or by mail – simply specify that your gift is to be allocated to the MSON Advanced Education Alumni Scholarships. The total raised will be announced at the Celebrating Mercy Gala on May 14. For those still interested in assisting current nursing students, there are several scholarships (some of which were former MSON student scholarships) to which alumni can contribute. Those scholarships will be awarded to nursing students attending Carolinas College of Health Sciences.

Gifts can be mailed to:

Carolina HealthCare Foundation
PO Box 32861
Charlotte, NC 28232-2861

Online Instructions:

1. Go to: givecarolinas.org
2. Click on Donate Now at top of page.
3. Select Research and Education.
4. Select Mercy School of Nursing Fund from the pull-down menu.
5. In the comments section, specify that the gift is for the alumni scholarships.

For information on alumni events or programs contact
Ruthie Mihal, alumni relations coordinator at (704) 609-1542

Ruthie.Mihal@CarolinasHealthCare.org