

the LAMP

SUMMER 2024

mount carmel college of nursing magazine

Leaders chart
new paths forward
for the College



MOUNT CARMEL
College of Nursing

A Member of Trinity Health

Strategic Plan Unveiled; details expansive path forward for MCCN

"All paths from Mount Carmel College of Nursing lead to the best and brightest futures."

Guiding MCCN into its successful future is an essential, all-encompassing process that requires planning, disciplined implementation of plan elements, and the entirety of the team working together to achieve goals. Almost from the minute he accepted the role of President, Dr. Todd Ambrosia has been absorbing everything he can about the College, its students, faculty, staff, the health system, and the community in order to inform the strategic planning process that's been underway for more than a year.



“As the President of Mount Carmel College of Nursing, I am thrilled to see our strategic plan come to life after a year of dedicated planning. This is just the beginning of an exciting journey toward a brighter future for our institution and our students,” said Todd Ambrosia, DNP, MSN, MBA, FNP-BC, FNAP.



Through primary and secondary, qualitative and quantitative research, a retreat and series of topic-focused meetings, the initial plan was developed. That preliminary plan was presented to focus groups, and feedback from those groups was used to revise and finalize the plan. The MCCN Board of Trustees approved the plan in March 2024.

In late April, the College unveiled its new plan. The launch event, held at MCCN, was attended by more than 100 stakeholders.



MCCN Strategic Plan 2024 – 2027 Framework Guiding Principles

- Cultivate a diverse, equitable, and inclusive environment
- Promote interprofessional education, practice, and research
- Purposeful integration of emerging technology
- Financial stewardship





Key Focus Areas



Teaching

Innovative
Engaging
Evolutionary
Relevant
Immersive
Real-World



Scholarship

Discovery
Creation
Application
Integration
New Knowledge
Existing Knowledge



Service

Community
Diverse Populations
Advocating
Health Disparities
Social Determinants
of Health

Teaching – providing a learning experience that ensures students’ readiness for their future professions

Success indicators for Teaching are:

- Student retention
- Graduation rates
- Licensure pass rates
- Clinical competence
- Faculty development
- Student feedback
- Alumni satisfaction

“At Mount Carmel College of Nursing, our faculty have always stood out as caring and compassionate experts,” said Cora Arledge ’12, ’17, ’21, DNP, B.S.Ed., RN. “As we look to the future, our Strategic Plan will focus on providing resources to our faculty and staff to develop student-centered activities that support innovative teaching strategies while allowing students to shine within their academic and service communities. Although this has been a focus of the College in the past, our goal is to diversify our educational offerings to strengthen interprofessional collaboration and organizational partnerships.”

“Although all elements of the strategic plan are crucial, the cornerstone of MCCN and its legacy stands in academic excellence,” said Academic Dean Jami Nininger ’87, DNP, RN. “The strategic plan builds on this legacy creating the opportunity to support the community and the healthcare industry in various ways.”

Scholarship – creating and sharing new and existing knowledge that highlights the importance of nursing and healthcare

Success indicators for Scholarship are:

- Funding
- Scholarly output
- Collaboration and partnerships
- Training and mentoring
- Dissemination and knowledge translation
- Ethics and integrity

“Scholarship is an exciting area of development for the college. In shaping our definition of scholarship, we drew upon the work of Ernest Boyer, who broadened traditional perspectives on the subject,” said Sarah Julien-Bell, MA. “The new faculty practice initiative is one of the ways the college aims to enhance our scholarly efforts, ensuring that our faculty remain current and relevant in the clinical field. The team behind this initiative also envisions the college engaging in more educational research, applying for grants, and increasing the number of publications produced by the college.”

Service – engaging with community, serving diverse populations and working to reduce health disparities; producing the next generation of healthcare leaders

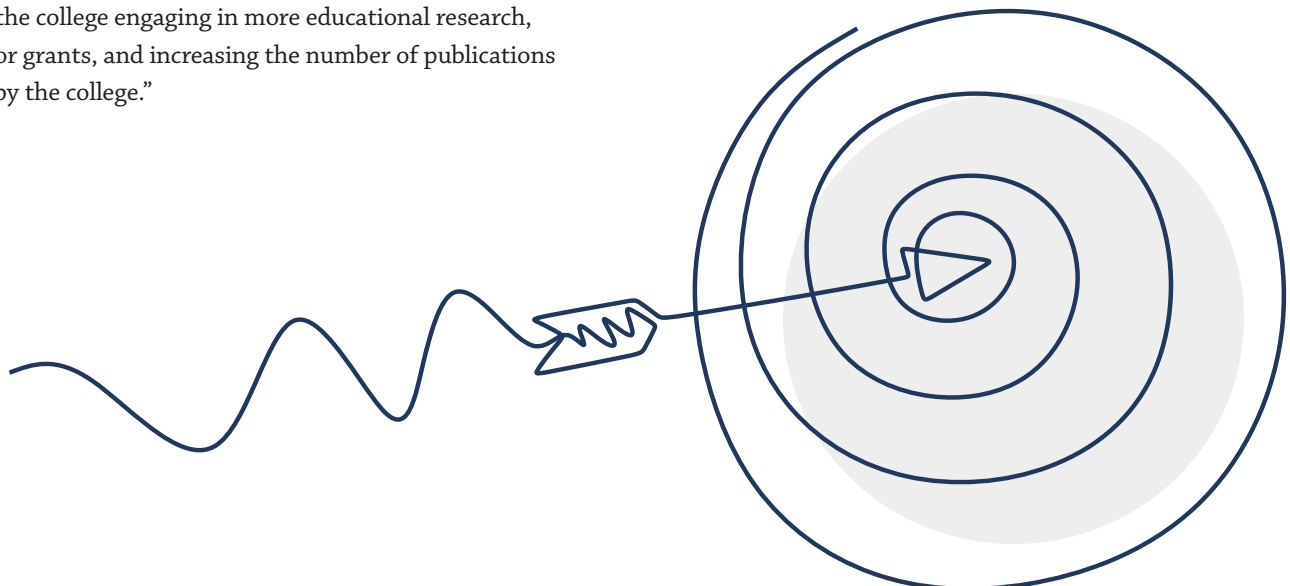
Success indicators for Service are:

- Community engagement
- Student service learning
- Partnerships and collaboration
- Service innovation
- Stakeholder satisfaction

“We want to ensure Service is woven through the fabric of all that we do – in our communities, profession, and to all of those we work alongside – to stress the importance of community engagement, serving diverse populations, and reducing healthcare disparities,” said Mitch Joseph-Kemplin, MA.

In addition to Teaching, Scholarship, and Service, Financial Stewardship is a central tenant of the plan. Efforts in this area will focus on revenue generating opportunities, disciplined department budgeting and expense tracking, using resources effectively, and reducing or eliminating little or unused resources, e.g., software, subscriptions, etc.

The College plan calls for increased transparency and simplicity in student bills. In addition to providing “life of program” financial planning for students, MCCN will standardize its tuition structure and provide students with a single, all-encompassing tuition rate. No additional fees will be charged, decreasing “sticker shock” and setting the College apart in the marketplace. This approach also will improve ease of billing and provide for more accurate forecasting and budgeting.





first steps

Implementation – First Steps

An initial set of implementation priorities has been set:

1. Developing allied health certification programs, including Medical Assistant, Scrub Tech, Pharmacy Tech and Lab Assistant, are being considered as additions to the current offerings
2. Offering two-year pre-licensure nurse option, to meet the urgent need for RNs
 - a. Exploring the options for diploma or associate degree
3. Creating a Bachelor of Science in public health option
4. Adding DNP – Nurse Anesthesia track
5. Establishing a fully-functioning faculty practice, which would provide revenue for MCCN and stipends for faculty.

Potential specializations include:

- a. Behavioral health
- b. Nurse anesthesia
- c. Primary care

Action Councils will establish and guide implementation of plan elements

Three action groups – planning, development, implementation – have been established to move the plan forward. Each of the above priorities has a related action council and an additional group is devoting their time and talent to addressing the future of physical facilities, including the Franklinton campus.

Updated Mission and Vision

The MCCN Mission and Vision being revised slightly to be more inclusive of allied health and public health degree students of the future. The new statements (with changes underlined> are:

Mission

In the spirit of the Catholic tradition, we welcome a diverse population of students from all faiths, to prepare them academically and professionally as competent and compassionate healthcare leaders, who are lifelong learners, and who possess the moral courage to continuously promote the health of individuals and communities.

Vision

Be THE innovative academic center preparing students to be the most trusted partners in health care.

College name change under consideration

Market research is underway now to determine if a name change is warranted and, if so, what name the College should adopt to best position it for the future. Recommendations are expected to be presented to the Board in the Fall.

“I am enthusiastic about the prospect of considering a name change for Mount Carmel College of Nursing to better align with our evolving offerings and esteemed reputation,” said Ambrosia. This potential change represents our commitment to innovation and excellence, ensuring that our name reflects the exceptional education and opportunities we provide to our students and community.”



SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS, FOR THEIR LEADERSHIP AND WORK IN DEVELOPING THE MCCN STRATEGIC PLAN:

Teaching

- Jami Nininger, DNP, RN
- Cora Arledge, DNP, B.S.Ed., RN

Scholarship

- Sarah Julien-Bell, MA
- Thelma Patrick, PhD, RN
- Lori Hill, PhD, RN, APRN-WHNP

Service

- Mitch Joseph-Kemplin, MA
- Ken Sigler, EdD

Administrative Leadership

- Colleen Lane, A.S.
- Melissa Contino*
- Sarah Julien-Bell, MBA

Financial Stewardship

- Gina Hendricks, MBA
- Andy Priday, MBA, CPA

*deceased

A Message from the Mount

Dear Mount Carmel College of Nursing Family,

With this issue, we celebrate our 2024 graduates. At the close of the academic year in May, I was filled with a profound sense of gratitude and pride. Graduation is a time of reflection, celebration, and anticipation, marking the culmination of one chapter and the beginning of another filled with endless possibilities.

At the core of Mount Carmel College of Nursing is our unwavering Catholic foundation, rooted in the values and teachings of our esteemed founders, The Sisters of the Holy Cross. Their legacy of compassion, service, and excellence continues to inspire and guide us as we strive to uphold the highest standards of nursing education and practice.

As we honored the accomplishments of our graduates and bade them farewell as they embarked on their nursing careers at all levels, we also celebrated the inception of our new strategic plan. This visionary roadmap sets the stage for transformative growth and innovation, introducing new programs, fostering collaborations with Mount Carmel Health System, and creating innovative practice opportunities that will shape the future of nursing education.

I am deeply grateful to the entire Mount Carmel College of Nursing community for their unwavering support, dedication, and commitment to bringing our strategic plan to life. To our faculty and staff, whose tireless efforts and expertise have shaped our educational programs and nurtured our students, I extend my heartfelt appreciation. To our students, whose passion, resilience, and drive for excellence inspire us every day, I offer my sincere thanks for your hard work and dedication.

I would also like to express my gratitude to our colleagues at Mount Carmel Health System, whose collaboration and partnership have been instrumental in shaping our strategic initiatives. To the members of the MCCN Board, whose guidance and wisdom have been invaluable in the development of our plan, I extend my deepest appreciation.

Lastly, I want to acknowledge the wisdom and support of our esteemed alumni, whose legacy of excellence and service is reflected in our strategic plan, and continues to inspire and guide us in our mission to transform lives through the power of nursing. Their input and guidance have been invaluable in the planning process.

As we celebrate the achievements of our graduating students and look forward to the exciting opportunities that lie ahead, let us do so with a sense of gratitude, unity, and optimism. We will continue to uphold the values and traditions that define us, while embracing the future with courage, innovation, and a shared commitment to excellence.

Together, we have truly built a shared vision! I wish you a wonderful summer, and look forward to connecting again in the fall.

My best always,



Todd Ambrosia, DNP, MSN, MBA, FNP-BC, FNAP
President



the LAMP

SUMMER 2024

COLLEGE CALENDAR 2024

August 13 – 16

New Student Take Flight Days

August 19

Fall Semester begins

September 2

Labor Day

September 19

Scholarship and Donor Recognition Dinner

October 14 – 20

Fall Break

November 2

MCAA Annual Meeting and

Homecoming Celebration

Editor's Note:

Being mindful of resources and making the best use of funds is important to Mount Carmel College of Nursing. We recognize that some readers may prefer an electronic copy of the magazine, in lieu of a printed and mailed publication. Please let us know how you would like to receive future issues of the LAMP by scanning the QR code below with your smart phone camera and completing the online form.



Thank you.

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THE LAMP

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ALISON JONES, MEd



2024



2024 Commencement

"As you now cross the threshold of a new chapter in your life, I offer my heartfelt congratulations on your remarkable achievements. Your journey at Mount Carmel College of Nursing has equipped you with the knowledge, skills, and compassion to make a difference not only in nursing, but in caring. Your commitment to excellence and your passion for caring for others has set you apart as future leaders in the nursing profession."

MCCN President Dr. Todd Ambrosia

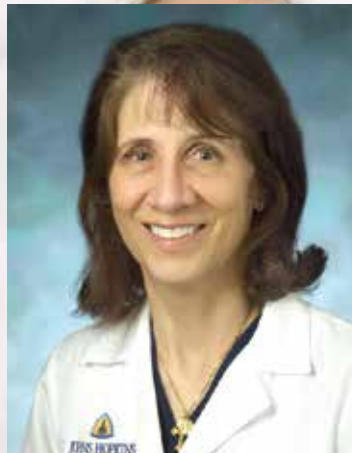




Congratulations to all
MCCN graduates.

24

GIVING BACK HONORS CAREER AND FAITH FOR WINNIE GUTHIKONDA



Always an education advocate and supporter, and an educator herself, Winifred “Winnie” Guthikonda, APN, MSN, RN, recently established a new endowment through the Mount Carmel Foundation to provide scholarships in perpetuity to MCCN students. The first scholarship from the Yavorsky Guthikonda Nursing Scholarship Endowment will be awarded for the upcoming 2024-25 academic year.

“In 1986, when my father and father-in-law died within six weeks of each other, my then husband and I wanted to find a meaningful way to honor their lives,” said Guthikonda. “We decided to build a school in their honor in India, where my husband was born.” The school – which is comparable to a community college in the U.S. – was established in 1991. “The library in the school was dedicated to my father, Leonard J. Yavorsky Memorial Library.”

The school is named the Guthikonda Sreeramula Degree College. Since inception, it has since branched out from an arts and sciences school to include engineering and law.

“Being able to bring education to those who might not otherwise have the opportunity to further their studies, left an indelible impression on me,” she said.

**DONOR
SPOT
LIGHT**
WINNIE GUTHIKONDAE

Making education a priority in her own life took on even more meaning and relevance when Winnie and her husband divorced and she looked for a way to re-start her life. Originally from Youngstown, she graduated from a nursing diploma program there. Post divorce, 25 years later, she returned to school, earning a bachelor's degree in health care psychology, then an MSN, board certification in her specialty as a Certified Post Anesthesia Nurse (CPAN) and finally her APN certification in clinical education.

Part of getting that fresh start was a move to Columbus, Ohio, at the suggestion of her brother-in-law Mark Herbert, MD, FACP, a Mount Carmel infectious disease physician. "I started working as a casual, in the PACU at Mount Carmel West as I was working on my MSN," Guthikonda said. "Mount Carmel helped me realize that I could make my own life, and my own friends. It was instrumental in me getting a new start after the divorce. Providing scholarships for tomorrow's nurses is a way for me to give something back. Founding the successful school in India was a profound experience for me. I'm sure this endowment and getting to know the students who benefit from it will be too."

"Selfishly, these younger nurses are going to be taking care of me someday, so I want them to be prepared," she joked. "Seriously, though, medicine is changing so rapidly and there is more and more technology involved in patient care now. Tomorrow's nurses will have new challenges to face, as well as new opportunities to embrace. In my 50-year career, the advancements in care have been amazing."

Guthikonda, in her role as a perianesthesia clinical educator at Mount Carmel, had the opportunity to work on the earliest iteration of high-reliability organizations, learning directly from the airline industry, where the concepts, practices, and processes were initially developed. "I was the only Mount Carmel nurse who, along with one physician from the system, was sent to Memphis to train with airline pilots in 2004," she said. "We began applying the principles learned first in surgery and then rolled it out to obstetrics. Now, those same practices are used throughout the health care system to help ensure safe, high-quality care."

"Nurses will need to continue to learn throughout their careers, as well as share their knowledge and experiences with the next generation," said Guthikonda. "Future nurses



will have even more opportunities to branch out into new specialties."

While she left the Mount Carmel system in 2017 to live closer to her daughter in Maryland, Guthikonda still shares a deep bond with the health system. "I'm proud of my faith and being a product of the Catholic school system, too," she said. "My values align closely with those of MCHS and MCCN, so providing scholarships to Mount Carmel nurses helps fulfill my desire to give back in a way that honors both my career and my faith."

"It's important to be humble and kind," Guthikonda said. "My faith and my education have helped me truly appreciate the value of life. It is a privilege to be an educator of future nurses, who see people when they are most vulnerable. Respecting patients and doing whatever it takes are essential in our work."

Guthikonda is looking forward to meeting her endowment's first scholarship recipient at the MCCN Scholarship and Donor Recognition dinner in September. "My hope is to keep in contact with them, encourage and watch their progress over time," she said.

COLLEGE QUICK READ

Virginia Shaffer named OASN School Nurse of the Year

Virginia Shaffer '93, '09, '20, MS, BSN, RN, LSN, is this year's Ohio Association of School Nurses 2024 *School Nurse of the Year*. Virginia is the Diabetes Resource Nurse for the Columbus Public School District. She has been a licensed school nurse for 14 years, effectively holding positions as a building nurse for students in the elementary, middle, and high school grade levels.

She provided care for students who were medically complex, students from other countries, and students with special education needs. As the Diabetes Resource Nurse, she coordinates evidence-based care for 180 students with diabetes, provides staff education and training, supports students with diabetes and their families, and acts as the liaison between school administrators and community healthcare providers.

"I am extremely honored and grateful to be named *Ohio School Nurse of the Year*," said Shaffer. "I work with a tremendous group of school nurses in Columbus City Schools and in the state of Ohio. I am passionate about serving our children and am humbled to be recognized by my peers for this award. I am blessed to have colleagues that acknowledge my dedication and constantly inspire me to continue doing this important work."

Virginia was recognized and received her award at the Annual Ohio Association of School Nurses' conference on April 19, 2024, at Sawmill Creek Resort in Huron, Ohio.



MCCN faculty and staff tour Mount Carmel Dublin

Mount Carmel Dublin, under construction near I-270 and Sawmill Parkway, is set to open in early 2025. Faculty and staff recently toured the construction site to learn more about what the new health and wellness campus will offer to patients and the surrounding community.



Rachel Zook Memorial Speaker Series debuted during Nurses Week

On Monday, May 6, 2024, the first event in the Rachel Zook Memorial Speaker Series was attended by many MCAA alumni and other local nurses. Marcus Engel, a national speaker and author, presented *The Other End of the Stethoscope* at The Fawcett Center in Columbus. *The Other End of the Stethoscope* reminded healthcare professionals of the vital role they play in the healing process of patients. This keynote detailed the experience of a young patient during hospitalization, the care and compassion shown by health care professionals, and the importance of health care professionals to be safe, secure, and appreciated in their role within this sacred field.


Participants came away with an understanding of each patient and co-worker's individuality, unique differences, and appreciation for the role every health care employee plays in the healing of patients and their families. These patient and family experiences are absolutely vital in quality, competent health care.



Mr. Engel was available during the afternoon at MCCN to give his speech and entertain questions from the attendees. Continuing education credit was awarded for the evening event at the Fawcett Center. He also had a book signing after the presentation of his popular and inspiring books *The Other End of the Stethoscope* and *I'm Here*.



As a college freshman, Marcus Engel was blinded and nearly killed after being struck by a drunk driver. Through two years of rehab, over 350 hours of reconstructive facial surgery and adaptation through a multitude of life changes, Marcus witnessed the good, the bad, and the profound in patient care.



MCAA Annual Meeting & Homecoming Celebration

Saturday, November 2, 2024

Evening Schedule

5 – 6 p.m.

Cocktail Hour
Cash bar
Class Pictures

6 – 9 p.m.

Dinner and Program
Evening will include
a silent auction and
raffles

The link to book your room and receive the special rate may be found on the College website, www.mccn.edu, under alumni/events.



This event will be held at the Brookside Golf and Country Club, 2770 West Granville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43235.

The Springhill Suites by Marriott offers a special room rate for Homecoming attendees. The hotel is 2.3 miles from the event center, in the Bridgepark area of Dublin, Ohio. Parking at the hotel and at the event venue is free.



Reservations and Raffle

Check Appropriate:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Attending Saturday dinner (MCAA member)	\$60.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dinner(s) for non-members and/or guest(s) of member	\$65.00 each
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cash Raffle	(6 chances) \$15
<input type="checkbox"/>	Quilt Raffle	(6 chances) \$15
	Sub-total	\$ _____ . ____

Dues and Donations

<input type="checkbox"/>	MCAA Honorary Member (graduated 1974 or earlier pays no dues)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	2024 graduate of an undergraduate program receives first year of membership free.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	New MCAA Lifetime Member \$250.00 one-time fee	\$250.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	New or renewing MCAA Member (1/1/25 - 12/31/25)	\$40.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Donation to MCAA Scholarship Fund	_____ . ____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Donation to MCAA Operating Fund	_____ . ____
	Total	\$ _____ . ____

Reservations must be received by Friday, October 26, 2024.

Please pay online or make your check payable to Mount Carmel Alumni Association.

Mail your check and this form to:

Mount Carmel Alumni Affairs office, Attn: Pat Steele Skunda, MCAA President
127 South Davis Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43222

First Name Maiden if appropriate Last Name

Guest(s) names

Street City

State Zip

Phone

Email Graduation year(s)

Please seat me with the Class of _____ .

*If your graduation year ends in 4 or 9 this is your honor year!

Please include a biographical update on your life and career on another sheet of paper and send it with this reservation form. Let us know if we may publish your update in one of the upcoming issues of the LAMP.

You need not be present to win.
Please **Circle** CASH or QUILT.
Make additional copies of tickets if needed.

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GREETINGS FROM YOUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Alumni UP



Has your name changed since graduation? If so, please don't forget to notify us so we can amend your educational record and your contact information. Please contact Maggie Miller-Rea, coordinator, Records & Registration, at 614.234.3959 or by email at registrar@mccn.edu.

Dear Mount Carmel Alumni,

I'm pleased to provide an update on recent MCAA activities, as well as share some information about upcoming events and activities.

The MCAA and MCCN jointly presented a Night with Marcus Engel at our inaugural Rachel Zook Speaker Series during Nurses Week this past May. We honored all our student nurses, alumni, faculty, currently practicing nurses, and retired nurses.

The MCAA awarded 16 scholarships this year to current students. The 2024 Scholarship and Donor Recognition Dinner will be held on September 19. Look for more information about that event in this issue of The LAMP and in the Fall issue of AlumNews.

We welcomed 242 new graduates in May at Commencement to the national and international Mount Carmel Nursing community! A total of 320 degrees were awarded at this year's ceremony. Since 1906, there have been nearly 10,900 graduates from the School and College of Nursing.

The MCAA will be inviting student representation to the MCAA Board this fall. We will have one Senior student and one Junior student join our Board. We are focusing on alumni engagement this fall. Anyone interested in joining our ad hoc committee, please let me know.

Registration for the 2024 Homecoming is now open. Forms to fill out and mail or a QR code to register online are both available on page 15 of this issue of The LAMP.

Sincerely,

Pat Skunda, '72, '10, '14, MS, RN
President, MCAA

Get Involved!

dates

Alumni Vision

The vision of the Mount Carmel Alumni Association is to support Mount Carmel College of Nursing through philanthropic, networking, and mentoring initiatives.

Follow us on Facebook

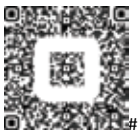
by visiting www.facebook.com/mcalumniassoc

Send Us Your Email Address

MCCN and the Mount Carmel Alumni Association are sending information via email. Send your email address to alumniaffairs@mccn.edu or visit our website to stay connected.

Alumni Association Dues Payment Instructions

We have two ways to pay your 2024 membership dues: You may mail us a check in the enclosed envelope or, if you prefer the convenience of a credit card, simply use your mobile phone camera to scan the appropriate Square (QR code) below and follow instructions there.



Annual Membership plus fee
\$41.50 total



Lifetime Membership plus fee
\$257.75 total

Meet your MCAA Board members!

President: Pat Skunda '72, '10, '14, MS, RN

Vice President: Open

Secretary: Jami Nininger '87, DNP, RN

Treasurer: Suzanne Martin '66, JD, RN

Members-at-Large:

Frieda Gill '91, '97, '09, MS, RN

Jody Gill Rocha '08, '10, MS, RN

Celeste Schmelzer '79, MSN RN

Ginny Shaffer '93, '09, '20, MS, LSN, RN, IBCLC

Angela Snider '10, '14, MS, RN, APRN-BC

Ex-Officio: Alison Jones, Mount Carmel Foundation



**JACKIE SHAFFER'S PATH
TO EAST AFRICA PAVED
WITH LEARNING, LEADING,
AND LOVING HER WORK**



Jackie Shaffer '69, MS, RN,

Allowing her passion for transformational leadership and community-building guide to her life and career has taken Jackie Shaffer '69, MS, RN, from the hospital emergency department to East Africa and a thousand places in between.

“There are lots of paths a nurse can take,” said Shaffer. “It’s important to be aware of what you are passionate about and what really sets you on fire to get out of bed and into work every day. Finding what you love about your job can help guide you to the best opportunities for professional success and personal fulfillment.”

After earning her diploma from the Mount Carmel School of Nursing, Shaffer began her professional career in the emergency department, which she loved. In that role, she said, “I found myself most fulfilled out in the waiting room, providing comfort and forming bonds with patients, families, and others who were waiting. That’s when I started to realize that I wanted an opportunity

that gave me more time to be with patients, building relationships. I moved on to oncology to make that happen.” In addition, she earned a bachelor’s degree in social psychology and a master’s degree in health care administration, both of which supported her interest in how people function in groups.

Moving up through the hospital ranks into manager roles, Shaffer became a student of transformational leadership; how to inspire extraordinary outcomes “In management, we all learn very quickly what doesn’t work. Finding out what does work can be a challenge – one best met when there is a real sense of community among leaders and co-workers. We functioned as a team and gave better patient care,” she said.

“You really have to care about each other. A manager that believes in transformational leadership – where diversity, respect, care, listening, being open to new ideas, critical thinking, and problem-solving as a group – develops an environment where people feel listened to and valued. There’s transparency as well, in a community, about how decisions are made,” said Shaffer.

Shaffer has developed a non-traditional view of “community.” She expands it to include any time a group has shared goals, whether that is on a unit, in a department, on an interdisciplinary committee, board of directors or elsewhere.

After 24 years in hospital-based roles in the Mount Carmel system, in home care, clinical research, network development, etc., she gravitated to consulting and was especially pulled toward non-profit work. In 2002, she founded CommonGround Partners, a global business consulting and leadership development firm that specialized in transforming leaders, organizations and communities for sustainable change. Her clients included more than 40 U.S. hospitals, state and local public health entities, non-profit organizations, long-term care facilities, and rural communities in the U.S. and globally.

In 2016, Shaffer co-founded a second organization, this one a 501(c)(3) non-profit, Village Voices International, with her lifelong friend, Doug Hauth, whom she worked with on business projects for more than 20 years. One of their previous collaborations took Shaffer to East Africa in 2014 to meet with girls being sponsored to attend

secondary school. Shaffer was struck by the resilience and optimism of the rural Kenyans, especially the girls and women, in the face of extreme poverty and the lack of resources they faced.

“When I started out in the emergency department, I had no idea I’d be working in Africa all these years later,” said Shaffer. She shared this story (available on the Village Voices website – village-voices.org):

“When I was in Tanzania, I met a 14-year-old girl named Rosemary, whose mother experienced violence at the hands of a relative, eventually dying of her injuries, simply because she insisted her daughter go to school. Rosemary suffered frequent bouts of typhoid and malaria and a serious eye infection caused from contaminated river water. Her vision was so poor she could barely see to read, nevertheless she made good grades. Someone had given her a pair of second-hand glasses, and my eye went straight to the splintered pea-sized hole in one lens. I asked her how she could see through the broken glass and she looked at me confused... ‘I can see perfectly fine all around it.’



I was humbled by her answer and learned from this wise young woman what gratitude and being rich truly means.”

Later in 2014, Shaffer had a chance meeting with Caroline Lentupuru, a Kenyan woman from the Ilchamus tribe, at a conference in Nairobi. The two women had a common mindset as both had been strategizing about how to empower young women in poor, remote villages

in East Africa. Lentupuru invited Shaffer to visit her village, Kailer. For Shaffer, it was an eye-opening, life-changing experience.

Village Voices is currently active in Kailer, the first village in which the organization would actualize its vision of helping vulnerable people help themselves.

“When we first selected Kailer, we spent a year and a half visiting with and listening to the people there,” said Shaffer. “We believe it’s the people themselves who will problem-solve and find ways to sustainably improve the quality of their lives. Our organization works to connect them with the tools and resources to do so.”

Applying all of the expertise and experience in her nearly 50-year career, Shaffer and her partners are building an existing community into a more sustainable, successful one. Early successes in Kailer include educating a healthcare worker, bringing safe water to improve health, and empowering women to have their voices heard.

“My work in Kenya is the result of my commitment to finding and making the most of opportunities,” said Shaffer. “You know, in nursing school, an instructor failed me once. The task was to complete a pre-op checklist. I was nervous but thought I did fine. After completing the checklist, and being advised of the failure, the instructor took me aside and reminded me that while the list was completed correctly, I had failed to acknowledge the human being on the gurney. In other words, you can get so caught up in what you have to do that you forget what’s most important. I’ve never forgotten that lesson.”

“If you really understand yourself and know what you love – and it’s important to look around and see what’s out there – the opportunities are nearly endless,” said Shaffer. “Study, learn, research and look for ways to make things better. Looking for solutions that promote the greater good, not necessarily your own needs, can be hard to do. And results take time, but you can provide opportunities and empower others in achieving sustainable change. I’ve been there and done it.”

MEET ALISON JONES, MEd SENIOR DEVELOPMENT OFFICER



With nearly a year of tenure at the Mount Carmel Foundation, Alison Jones describes MCCN as a special place, where donors truly give for altruistic reasons. “They give because they want to; because they have a meaningful connection or special memories of the School or College of Nursing,” said Jones. “It heartwarming and it definitely inspires me to work harder to connect and make those gifts a reality to advance the College and its students.”

Jones joined Mount Carmel in late August 2023 after spending 15 years with a higher ed non-profit affiliated with Ohio State. She brings a wealth of experience in development and corporate relations to her work on behalf

of Mount Carmel. She has system-wide fundraising responsibilities, as well as primary responsibility for philanthropy that benefits MCCN.

“Over the last year, I’ve been plugged into the strategic plan development and implementation, so am looking forward to the opportunities that may be presented to the Foundation related to the plan,” she said. “It’s been a great first year, reaching out and working with donors to introduce myself and get to know them and their passion for the College.”

To complement the strategic planning process, Jones organized a Coffee with the President event, for donors and friends of MCCN, to get updates on plan progress and connect directly with MCCN President, Dr. Todd Ambrosia. “The individuals who participated in that first coffee event were glad to hear directly from Dr. Ambrosia about the plan, its progress, and next steps,” said Jones. “We’re planning a second event on August 28 and will continue to have these ‘get togethers’ every six months. This next event will feature Assistant Professor Emeritus Pat McKnight, MS, RDN, LD, who retired last year from the MCCN as its longest-serving faculty member. We’ll do another update, a tour, and have some time for questions and answers with Dr. Ambrosia, too.”

“I’m grateful to be here and it’s a privilege to get to know our donors and their passion for the College. The staff and faculty, too, are incredible. They have meaningful connections to the College and have been generous with their time and knowledge to help me get off to a great start here.”

“We’re all looking forward to the Scholarship and Donor Recognition Dinner in September. That event is so special because it connects donors directly with those who benefit from their generous gifts,” added Jones.

For more information about the Foundation and philanthropy at MCCN, contact:

Alison Jones, Senior Development Officer
3100 Easton Square Place, Suite 300, Columbus, OH 43219
O: 614-234-4760 M: 614-226-3447
alison.jones@mchs.com
www.mountcarmelfoundation.org

FACULTY NEWS



Dr. Jami Nininger appointed Academic Dean

MCCN President Todd Ambrosia, DNP, MSN, MBA, FNP-BC, FANP has appointed Jami Nininger '87, DNP, RN, to the position of Academic Dean.

“Having served in diverse leadership and faculty roles, Dean Nininger has been influential in shaping nursing education, aligning her efforts with Mount Carmel’s mission to effectively prepare the next generation of nurses,” said Ambrosia.

“As a proud alumna, seasoned nurse, and accomplished educator, Dean Nininger continues to foster academic excellence in the preparation of the next generation of nurses, aspiring to foster the growth of others while making a meaningful mark on the field of nursing education.”

FACULTY PROMOTIONS

Larissa Brophy, MS, RDN, LD, FAND, CYT200 - Associate Professor

Deanna Hunt, '21, DNP, APRN, WHNP-BC, EBP(CH) - Associate Professor

Roxanne Oliver, DNP, APRN, DNP, MOL, APRN, FNP-BC, EBP (CH) - Associate Professor



Mohler earns Quality Matters™ Impact Award

Missy Mohler '97, MS, RN, pictured above, was recognized by Quality Matters with the “QM Ohio Individual Impact” award. She accepted her award on May 10, 2024, at the QM Ohio Annual Member Meeting.





ARDS OMPLISHMENTS

FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP

Eads, C., Medaugh, B., & Voorhees, J. (2024, March). Stumbling blocks to stepping stones: Obstacles in course redesign in undergraduate nursing science courses. 2024 Ohio League for Nursing Summit – Poster presentation.

Dr. Kerry Fankhauser is writing a spotlight synopsis in the Watson Caring Science Institute (WCSI) as an Affiliate Mount Carmel newsletter submission.

Fankhauser, K. (March 1, 2024). Caritas. Journey to Excellence - Poster presentation.

Hixenbaugh, M.M., & McGuire, C. D. (2023, December 1). Health system and collegiate collaboration to emphasize the importance of self-care and professionalism: Assisting with the transition to professional nursing practice [Conference session]. American Association of Colleges of Nursing Transform 2023 Conference, Lake Buena Vista, Florida, United States.

Medaugh, B., Eads, C., Voorhees, J. (2024, March 22) Stumbling Blocks to Stepping Stones: Obstacles in Course Redesign in Undergraduate Nursing Science Courses. Ohio League for Nursing Education Summit, Ohio 2024, Westerville, Ohio - poster presentation.

Schmitz, S, Kessler, N, Gill-Rocha, J, Uniacke, S. (2024, March 21). Bringing Professionalism Back To Nursing Students. Ohio League of Nursing Summit. Columbus, Ohio – Podium presentation.

Dr. Ann Smith. TCAA conference, Nashville, Tennessee, Ashby's Advice poster (April 28-May 1, 2024).

Sutherland, K., Shea, A. (2024, May). Culinary Experience for Senior Nursing Students: Building Community and Enhancing Self-Care. Mount Carmel's 12th Annual Research & EBP Day, Columbus, Ohio – poster presentation.

Voorhees, J. (2024, March 22) Flipped Hybrid Classroom Approach. Ohio League for Nursing Education Summit, Ohio 2024, Westerville, Ohio - Poster presentation.

Welch, B. (2024). Nurses Equity 2024: Integration and Evaluation of Formalized Debriefing Training for Faculty that Use Simulation in their Nursing Courses. World Virtual Conference on Nursing and Healthcare - poster presentation.

Barb Welch - Ohio League for Nursing; 2024 OLN Education Summit: Evolve & Get Involved: Maintaining Pride in the Profession - poster presentation.

2023-24 FACULTY AND STAFF AWARD WINNERS



**Melissa Contino Staff Excellence Award –
Kevin McDaniels, MEd, BEd**

The Staff Excellence Award recognizes staff members who exude the core values and ideals of MCCN. Nominees will demonstrate a strong work ethic, regularly exceed job and workload demands; be dependable, caring, and conscientious; regularly help and motivate others; consistently demonstrate a positive attitude; and create positive change for the College community. This award is given to a full-time College staff member who does not hold faculty status. The staff excellence award has never had a monetary prize, however, this year the award recipient received \$2,000 to be used towards research, professional development, or other scholarly endeavors.

“Kevin has spent countless hours while at work and sometimes off the clock, uploading documents, checking files, and emailing faculty members to make sure that all our accreditation is audit ready. With out him, all of these processes would fall to other people. With Kevin, it is one person who is checking everything in a detailed, concise manner. Kevin is definitely an asset to our College and is the example of excellence to all faculty and staff.”



**Ann E. Schiele Distinguished Faculty Award –
Amber Budd, MSN, APRN, PMHNP-BC**

The Distinguished Faculty Award recognizes a faculty member for their exemplary leadership, scholarship, and innovation. Nominees will have demonstrated a comprehensive and sustained record of academic and scholarly excellence, earned the respect of students and colleagues for their devotion to and skill in teaching, and will be faculty whose instruction is linked to and informed by their research and creative activities. The selected award recipient will be responsible for sharing their work at various venues as a requirement and the funding would be used to support their work and dissemination of their work. This award is a special and impactful way to continue Dr. Schiele’s legacy of teaching, leadership, and advocacy for faculty and to recognize a faculty member on an annual basis. The award winner received \$3000 to use towards research, professional development, or other scholarly endeavors.

“Dr. Budd is dedicated, detailed, hard-working, and is an example of servant leadership. Her faculty and their needs always come first. She consistently seeks feedback from leadership to improve courses and interactions with her faculty and students.”

“It is not uncommon for Dr. Budd to go above and beyond for her students. Students frequently speak on how supportive, nurturing, and caring Dr. Budd is. Many state they owe their success in the program to her. She is a bright light here at MCCN that maintains a high standard of nursing education by continued utilization of EBP. Dr. Budd could not be more deserving of this award.”

Quotes above are excerpted from award nomination forms.

NOMINATIONS ARE ALWAYS OPEN FOR DISTINGUISHED MOUNT CARMEL ALUMNI AND RISING STAR AWARDS



We invite you to nominate a member of the Mount Carmel Alumni for one of these two awards that will be presented at the 2024 Mount Carmel Alumni Association Annual Meeting and Homecoming: Distinguished Alumni Award and Rising Star Award.

Please nominate those special alumni by visiting <https://www.mccn.edu/alumni> and clicking in the column on the left "Distinguished Mount Carmel Alumnus Awards."

All nominees and their nominators will be notified of the outcome.

CRITERIA FOR DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

The following criteria should be used as a guide for describing a nominee's qualifications for the award. The contributions may include, but are not limited to, exceptional achievement and significant contribution in the following areas:

- **Professional Achievement** - Nominee has demonstrated professional recognition, professional accomplishments, and/or significant contributions to the nursing profession; nominee has demonstrated outstanding leadership in the field of nursing. The nominee reflects honor to the College of Nursing in pursuing their professional activities.
- **Sphere of Influence** - (local, state, national, or international) - Contributions made by the nominee have had a broad influence beyond the scope of that person's place of employment.

- **Community Service** - (local, state, national, or international) - The nominee has made significant humanitarian contributions to the community, greatly impacted the community through their actions, and/or is involved in a variety of service initiatives.

Selection is also based on alumni who have shown continued interest in and support for the College, and who exemplify the Core Values of Mount Carmel College of Nursing: academic excellence, respect, compassion, social responsibility, and diversity. In summary, the nominee possesses such integrity and stature that the faculty, staff, students, and alumni of the College of Nursing can take pride in, and are inspired by their recognition.



CRITERIA FOR RISING STAR ALUMNI AWARD

This award is presented to a member of the Mount Carmel College of Nursing alumni who has graduated with an undergraduate degree within the last 10 years. The following criteria should be used as a guide for describing a nominee's qualifications for the award. The contributions may include, but are not limited to, exceptional achievement and significant contribution in the following areas:

- **Professional Achievement** - Nominee has demonstrated professional recognition, professional accomplishments, and/or significant contributions to the nursing profession; nominee has demonstrated outstanding leadership in the field of nursing. The nominee reflects honor to the College of Nursing in pursuing their professional activities.
- **Sphere of Influence** - (local, state, national, or international) - Contributions made by the nominee have had a broad influence beyond the scope of that person's place of employment.
- **Community Service** - (local, state, national, or international) - The nominee has made significant humanitarian contributions to the community, greatly impacted the community through their actions, and/or is involved in a variety of service initiatives. Selection is also based on alumni who have shown continued interest in and support for the College, and who exemplify the Core Values of Mount Carmel College of Nursing: academic excellence, respect, compassion, social responsibility, and diversity.



IN LOVING MEMORY OF MELISSA CONTINO

November 7, 1970 – April 8, 2024

It is with deep sadness that we share with you the passing of our beloved colleague, Melissa Contino. Melissa was a fierce personality who embodied the true MCCN spirit. She was kind, friendly, generous with her time, and you could count on her.

“Melissa always made time for me to bombard her with questions. She was always very patient and kind. She was very generous with her time and her knowledge.” - Kevin McDaniels, MEd, BEd

“Melissa was such a joy to work with. Anything I needed help with she would do with a smile and a positive attitude. Melissa was gentle, kind, loving, and a true servant of the Lord. She will be very missed at MCCN because she was loyal and trustworthy and you could count on her.” - Lou Ann Hartley, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, PAHM, EBP-CH

“Melissa was such a bright spot on our second floor. With her “Hello Darlin’, how are you?” I always felt welcomed. She was such a friendly person and really embodied the motto of MCCN - “Seize every opportunity, climb every mountain, reach for the highest star, but above all, be a good human being.” Melissa will be missed by all.” - Sandy Stevens, MA, BSEd

Father in heaven,

An unexpected death is never easy to process, but we know that you are a God who comforts us. Lord, you have said that we don’t have to do anything alone because you are always by our side. I ask that you wrap your love around those who need your comfort and peace. May you soothe our sadness and draw us closer to you for strength and guidance.

Amen



IN MEMORIAM

Mount Carmel College of Nursing and its alumni honor the following graduates who have passed away and extend our sympathy to their family and friends.

Norma Fischer Connett — Class of 1943

Betty Peer — Class of 1952

Sr. M. Emeline Cunningham CSC — Class of 1954

Virginia "Ginny" Daily Morman — Class of 1963

Kathleen Cooper — Class of 1965

Elizabeth Wallace Evarts Hasel — Class of 1965

Justina Miller — Class of 1968

Anna Rice Thomlinson — Class of 1968

We also acknowledge the loss and honor the memory of those whose lives have touched the Mount Carmel family.

Robert F. Chosey, MD

Husband of Margaret "Peggy" Hale Tippett '66

Mother of Jo Carnevale '74

Father of Jill Trego Rill '77

Husband of Billie Tilley Halley '86 and Father of

Cheryl Halley Wiseman '97

Mother of Megan Thomlinson Gifford '99

Lois Stevens, MCCN receptionist (retired)



Tell us what you're up to!

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE () _____

E-MAIL _____

GRAD YEAR _____

WHAT'S NEW WITH YOU? NEW BABY? NEW JOB OR PROMOTION? _____

EARN ANOTHER DEGREE? _____

Send to: Alumni Affairs Office
Mount Carmel College of Nursing
127 South Davis Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43222
alumni affairs@mccn.edu

***Are you firmly planted in the digital age?
Then fill out our online form to let us know
what's new with you. Log on to the college
website at www.mccn.edu and click on Alumni.

Send your email and postal address updates to the Office of Alumni Affairs (contact information on page 7). Your personal information will be used for Mount Carmel College of Nursing business only.

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Columbus, OH 43219

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