



RN TO BSN PROGRAM OFFERS:

FLEXIBILITY, MEANINGFUL COURSEWORK, AND SUPPORTIVE FACULTY TO ITS STUDENTS

The Mount Carmel College of Nursing continues to create innovative, flexible pathways for nurses to advance their education in ways that fit within their current professional and personal commitments. The RN to BSN program, a completely online, asynchronous program, can be completed full-time in two semesters, taking 12, six-week classes over two semesters. It also can be completed on a part-time basis over a longer period of time, generally three to four semesters.

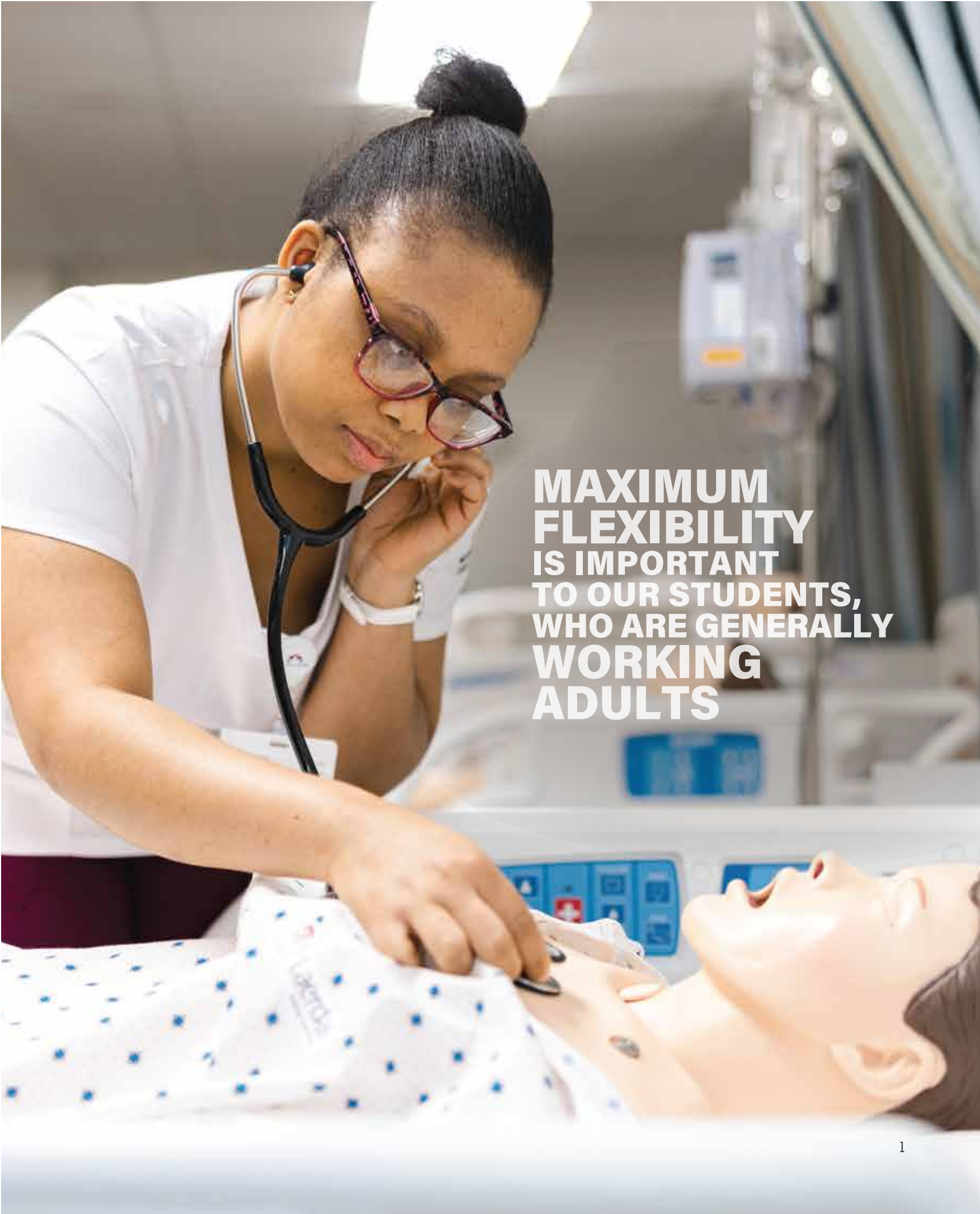
“Maximum flexibility is important to our students, who are generally working adults,” said Samantha Schmitz, PhD, MSN, BSN, RN director, academic program director – Traditional Undergraduate, Ascent, and RN to BSN programs. “From a student perspective, you will not find a better program. Our faculty care about the students as individuals. We are invested in their success, seeing them learn and grow. It’s one of the things that makes the College unique, setting us apart from other nursing education options.”

Kerry Fankhauser, DNP, MSN, BSN, RD, associate professor, agreed, “We meet with them (students) in the evenings and on the weekends when necessary. Students are genuinely grateful for that flexibility.” Class size is intentionally kept small – 25 or so students – to make sure each person gets the attention and support they need to succeed.

“Some students attend at the behest of the employers,” said Missy Mohler ‘97, MS, RN, associate professor. “Others are seeking the next step through a higher degree.”

“Our students are mostly young professionals who are working at least part-time, many whom have children,” said Miriam Bowers-Abbott, MA, associate professor, assistant director RN to BSN program. “We have seen an increase in older students, too. Their insights, perspectives, and experience bring great depth to class discussions.” Any barriers to learning, like technology adoption or language challenges, are addressed and mitigated by faculty and staff at MCCN.



A healthcare student, a young woman with glasses and a stethoscope, is focused on listening to a medical mannequin lying in a hospital bed. She is wearing a white short-sleeved shirt and a white ID badge. The background shows a clinical environment with medical equipment and a bright overhead light. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

**MAXIMUM
FLEXIBILITY
IS IMPORTANT
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WHO ARE GENERALLY
WORKING
ADULTS**

To be accepted, the RN student must have a current, unencumbered state nurse's license. No nursing proficiency or placement exams are required for admission. Through RN licensure and prior academic credit, applicants may have earned credit (42 semester credit hours in nursing and 48 semester credit hours in general education) transferred in toward the BSN degree.

All of the RN to BSN courses hold official Quality Matters Certification. Achieving Quality Matters (QM) course certification means that the course has been determined, through a peer review process, to meet national QM standards in course design that are associated with best practices. QM standards are developed using research and experts in the field.

"This is not just a bachelor's degree," said Bowers-Abbott. "Our courses are unique and have immediate application to current practice." Fankhauser said, "Our Wellness, Resiliency, and Professional Development course is approved for 45 contact hours by the American Holistic Nurses Association. We offer an additional module that provides 3 contact hours. Students that complete the whole course can automatically sit for the American Holistic Nurse exam."

"Kerry's course is especially important for self-care, to help nurses avoid burnout and minimize long-term job stressors," said Kim Greene, MSN, RN, FNP-BC, assistant professor. Green teaches Caring Practice in the Community in the RN to BSN program. "Most of our nurses work in the hospital, but most of the population is not in the hospital. We educate our students to look at access to healthcare and learn about disparities, even attend an addiction meeting in their own community. We look at everything from an individual perspective and at a community level. Each student gets involved in a local health promotion event," she added.

Mohler leads the Healthcare Quality and Safety class within the RN to BSN program. "In this course, students bring up an issue of concern in their current workplace. Then, throughout the six-week course, they develop a quality improvement project to address that issue," she said. "They leave our course with a presentation developed for their leader(s) at work and we've had feedback about the real-world results and impact that students are making in their workplace."

Bowers-Abbott brings a background in philosophy to her teaching in the program and has been working with Mount Carmel nurses for 20 years. Ethics, cultural issues, and faith impact health care and she brings the connection between liberal arts and nursing to the forefront for her students. "Healthcare is filled with difficult decisions and philosophy can help nurses make ethical decisions," she said.

"Healthcare is a business and we teach our students about that, too," said Beth Medaugh, MSN, BSN, RN, associate professor, who teaches Business Issues in Healthcare Today. "Talking about patient satisfaction and how that relates to reimbursement (payment for services) is one of the concepts we explore."

"Our students and graduates say that Mount Carmel College of Nursing offers one of the most supportive educational programs in the region, with individualized attention and support from faculty," said Fankhauser. "We're so proud of this program and the students who have successfully completed it. Mount Carmel Health System nurses can enroll and tuition is 100% covered by the system. It's a great benefit for our current RNs."

For more information about the MCCN RN to BSN program, visit www.mccn.edu, click on Academics, then RN to BSN Completion Program.





From the students' perspective:

"My experience at Mount Carmel has been extremely rewarding, providing a strong foundation that I will carry forward in my nursing career. Throughout this program, I've gained a deeper understanding of evidence-based practice, which has strengthened my ability to deliver high-quality patient care.

I also developed essential leadership and management skills, which have prepared me to take on greater responsibilities within healthcare teams. Learning about community nursing roles broadened my awareness of healthcare disparities and the importance of adapting care to diverse populations.

Additionally, I improved my professional writing skills in APA format. Overall, I am grateful for the knowledge and growth this program has provided, and I am confident that what I have learned will continue to guide my practice, support my growth, and enhance the care I provide to my patients."

A Message from the Mount

A Season of Renewal and Opportunity

Dear Friends,

As we welcome the arrival of a new year at The Mount, we stand on the cusp of exciting changes and boundless opportunities for growth and innovation. It's a time for reflection, gratitude, and a renewed commitment to our shared mission of advancing healthcare through education and compassionate service. The brisk winter season is upon us, yet our spirits are warmed by the promise of transformation that each new year brings.

Here at Mount Carmel College of Nursing, we are moving along our dynamic runway of new initiatives as we are hard at work developing our new Associate Degree in Nursing and Bachelor of Public Health programs. We are also planning the strategic inception of a Surgical Technology Certificate program in close collaboration with the Peri-operative Services teams across the Mount Carmel Health System. These programs will not only enrich our curriculum but also broaden the horizons for our current and future students, empowering them to thrive as leaders in the ever-evolving field of healthcare.

The foundation of these remarkable initiatives is laid by the tireless dedication and passion of our esteemed faculty and staff. Their unwavering commitment to excellence ensures that our students receive an education that is both rigorous and compassionate, preparing them to serve with integrity and empathy. I extend my heartfelt gratitude and admiration for their continued efforts and inspiring mentorship.

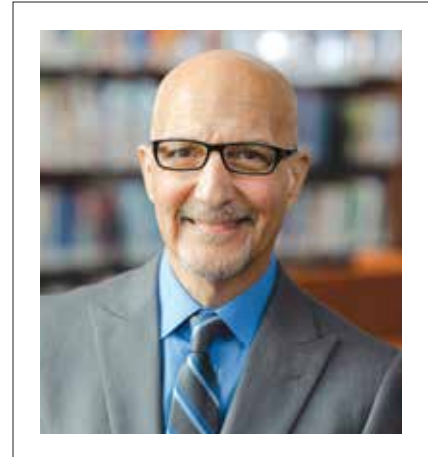
I want to also take a moment to pay tribute to you, our incredible alumni, whose efforts in supporting the health of patients, families, and communities have been nothing short of amazing. Your work as nurses upholds the legacy and vision of the founding Sisters of the Holy Cross, whose courage and conviction have been the bedrock of our institution. Their legacy endures as a reminder of our calling to persevere and propel nursing to the forefront of healthcare innovation and excellence.

As we navigate through winter into spring, let's be reminded of our core values and the legacy of those who came before us. Together, we are driven by a shared purpose to lead with compassion, authenticity, and resilience. Let this new year be a beacon of hope and inspiration—the catalyst for progress and the pursuit of knowledge that enlightens our path and enriches the lives of those we serve.

I encourage each of you to embrace the opportunities that lie ahead with open hearts and determined spirits. May the coming months be filled with discovery, growth, and a deepened sense of community as we steadfastly move forward with faith and optimism. With warm regards and best wishes for a fruitful new year!



Todd F. Ambrosia, DNP, MSN, MBA, FNP-BC, FNAP
President, Mount Carmel College of Nursing



the LAMP

WINTER 2024-25

COLLEGE CALENDAR 2025

March 3 – 9

Spring Break

April 18

Good Friday

April 20

Easter

May 4

Classes End

May 10

Commencement

May 19

Summer Session Begins

May 26

Memorial Day

July 4

Independence Day

August 10

Last Day of Summer Session

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THE LAMP

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STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS: MOUNT CARMEL COLLEGE OF NURSING AND MOUNT CARMEL HEALTH SYSTEM

The partnership between MCCN and Mount Carmel Health System (MCHS) continues to be witnessed, centered on shared visions and innovative collaborations. Two recent initiatives, both set to launch in January 2025, help to exemplify this collaborative partnership: the integration of Multi-Skilled Technician (MST) training into the sophomore level foundations course and the launch of the Academy of Clinical Essentials (ACE) model in the junior level BSN Medical Surgical course.

The purposeful integration of MST employment opportunities for MCCN students leverages the already established foundation course curriculum, and the already established MST curriculum into a seamless experience for students.

The integration is inclusive to the didactic, lab, and clinical experience, which helps to emphasize a holistic approach to learning for our sophomore level pre-licensure nursing students. As students advance through the course, they will engage with the same content taught to MSTs during the Mount Carmel Health System onboarding process. This integration helps to create a seamless bridge between academic learning and clinical practice, but also between MCCN and MCHS. In addition to embedding MST training into their coursework, students will develop hands-on expertise in phlebotomy and the EKG techniques during weekly simulated lab sessions.

Practicing these essential skills in a controlled, supportive environment allows students to build confidence and competence before demonstrating their abilities in real-world clinical or outpatient settings. As a culminating event within this integration, students will rotate through MCHS outpatient lab sites, showcasing their phlebotomy skills, and helping to solidify their ability to excel in patient care.

This integrated approach not only enhances psychomotor skills, but also helps to build and enhance students' communication abilities, fostering a well-rounded readiness to meet the complex demands of patient care today. By emphasizing the knowledge, skills, and attitudes required to deliver safe and holistic care MCCN assures its students are fully prepared to transition into professional practice. Under the ACE model, Trinity Health selected Mount Carmel East (MCE) and MCCN to pilot an innovative approach aimed at enhancing clinical experiences for nursing students through the implementation of the beginning stages of a Dedicated Education Unit (DEU).

In the ACE model students are paired with staff nurses who continue to manage their regular patient assignments while also serving in the capacity of a clinical instructor. This dual role of the nurse helps to foster seamless integration of education and practice as students learn alongside experienced professionals in a real-world setting. Since these staff nurses are integral members of the units where students are placed, the ACE model helps to cultivate a sense of community and connection, enriching the students' clinical experience.

Originally developed by the University of Maryland, the DEU model has demonstrated significant benefits. Studies report increased retention rates among staff nurses participating

in the program, as well as a unique opportunity to recruit nursing graduates to join the units where they completed their clinical training. By fostering stronger ties between students and their clinical sites, this approach not only enhances the educational journey, but also strengthens the pipeline of skilled nurses ready to enter the workforce.



Our student today, your nurse tomorrow is the shared mantra that helps to emphasize the collaborative efforts between MCCN and MCHS. This sentiment reflects a mutual commitment to supporting students' professional growth and encouraging them to build their careers within the health system. The MST integration program and the ACE model helped to establish a direct pathway for students to join Mount Carmel Health System upon graduation, all while gaining valuable experiences, even before earning their nursing degrees.

Both MCCN and MCHS are eager to witness the impact of these initiatives. There is a high level of confidence that these experiences will enrich students' educational experiences. Including phlebotomy training in a baccalaureate nursing program is not something that is commonly occurring. Together, MCCN and MCHS will be the first Trinity Health college or health system to launch the ACE model within the United States. Such integrations are important as they help to illustrate and emphasize how MCCN better prepares their students for the challenges of nursing practice in ways that are different from other nursing schools.

Submitted by Carmella Moran, PhD, MSN, RN



MOUNT CARMEL
Alumni Association

MCAA ANNUAL MEETING AND HOMECOMING

CELEBRATING OUR 50-YEAR HONOR CLASS OF 1974



Members of the 1974 Honor Class

This year's MCAA Homecoming Celebration was held on November 2, 2024, at the Brookside Golf and Country Club. Alumni board members were on hand to greet the alumni as they arrived at the venue. This year's 50-year Honor Class was the Class of 1974.

Alumni were able to view the rows of silent auction items that were donated from organizations, businesses, alumni, and alumni family members. There was a diverse collection of items that would fit most Christmas lists and everyday

needs. The quilt for the quilt raffle was made by Mary Lou Jones. All profits from the cash raffle, quilt raffle, and silent auction items go directly to scholarships for the nursing students. In 2024, MCAA provided 16 scholarships worth \$17,000 to MCCN students.

MCAA President Pat Skunda '72, '10, '14, MS, RN, opened the evening and annual meeting by welcoming everyone and asking Margo Medwid '74 to lead the alumni in prayer before dinner. After dinner, MCCN President, Dr. Ambrosia addressed the alumni and gave updates about the College. The Board members who were present were introduced.

The oldest alumni attending was Celine Applegate Dye '47. Also attending were Joan Short '48 and Catherine Maroni '54. They were able to talk about their nursing experiences from decades ago.

After dinner, there was a recognition of all the honor classes with a little trivia of what happened the year they graduated.

Prior to closing, the winner of the 50/50 cash raffle, Madelyn Deroche '74, was announced. The winner of the nurses' quilt was Jeff Doner '07. All the silent auction items were awarded. Everyone had time to reminisce before heading out to await next year's celebration. The 2025 Annual Meeting and Homecoming Celebration will be held November 1 at the Brookside Golf and Country Club.



Quilt winner Jeff Doner (2007)



Three oldest graduates attending: (L to R):
Joan Short (1948), Catherine Maroni (1954)
Celine Dye (1947)



MCAA Board members (L to R): Karen Powell, Ginny Shaffer,
Pat Skunda, Suzanne Martin, Jody Gill Rocha



Class of 2004 (L to R): Jennifer Nguyen, Katie Reichart, Tiffany Boss-Botts,
Rene Bauer Grawe, Kellie Garrison



Class of 1974 (L to R): Jo Carnevale, Chris McBurney,
Peg Seelig, Chris Racz, Grace Engle Brehm

DR. CARMELLA MORAN JOINS MCCN AS INTERIM DEAN OF NURSING AND ALLIED HEALTH



MCCN President Dr. Todd Ambrosia welcomed Carmella Moran, PhD, MSN, RN, to MCCN last November, as Interim Dean of Nursing and Allied Health.

“Dr. Moran has served in various roles in critical care nursing practice, nursing education, and higher

education leadership, culminating in her position as vice president for administration at Aurora University in Aurora, Illinois,” said Dr. Ambrosia.

She began her tenure at Aurora University as an associate professor and assistant director of the School of Nursing. She later served as director of the School of Nursing. Under her guidance, the institution launched a master’s degree in

nursing. Dr. Moran then served as dean of the College of Undergraduate Studies and the first dean of Aurora University Online.

“I’m excited to be here,” said Moran. “There is so much at the College that is good, especially the passionate and dedicated faculty, the cutting-edge curriculum, and the richness of the clinical experiences for our students. The partnership with the Mount Carmel Health System and Trinity Health is a real differentiating factor for MCCN and the students.”

Moran’s primary goals are to help the faculty move forward with planned initiatives, including new program offerings, and provide day-to-day support and mentoring to colleagues. “The interim appointment, which is expected to last five months, requires the ability to quickly assess the current state of affairs and spend time getting to know the faculty,” said Moran. “After one month the priority for program development began.” Moran explained.

Her 44-year career in nursing began in a practice setting, where her clinical area of expertise was critical care, e.g., open heart, transplant, and trauma. “I’ve always loved working with students and precepting newly hired nurses. My passion for education and love for students still burns strong.” Moran said.

Dr. Moran holds baccalaureate and master’s degrees in nursing and a PhD in education from Loyola University Chicago. Her areas of expertise include curriculum development, program assessment, and fostering collaborative community partnerships.

Her primary research interest is in the area of preceptorship programs that are widely used for socialization of newly hired nurses. “My dissertation was an investigation of the preceptors’ perceptions of benefits, rewards, supports, and commitment to the preceptor role among a sample of nurses,” she said.



**Marlene Sampson,
PhD, RN,
Academic Program
Director SDAP**

Improving recognition of early clinical decline: Determining reliability and validity of the Garvey clinical warning curves. Paula K. Garvey DNP, RN, NPD-BC, CHSE, Hannah Himes BSN, RN, CCRN, Marlene Sampson PhD, RN, Molly McNett PhD, RN, FNCS, FAAN. First published: 07 September 2024 <https://doi.org/10.1111/wvn.12745>. DeGruyter. <https://doi.org/10.1515/9783110718508-026>



**Christina Padrutt,
Graduate Faculty**

Earned certification as a Quality Matters Peer Reviewer. Presented the poster “Mindfulness in Motion for Nurse Leaders” at the Fourth National Summit on Promoting Well-Being and Resilience in Healthcare Professionals, held in Columbus, Ohio, on October 23 and 24, 2024. Christina received a Certificate of Excellence for her poster presentation.



**Sarah Julien-Bell,
Director Institutional
Effectiveness**

Fay, L., Daneshvar, Z., Julien-Bell, S. & Haynes, S. (2024). *Designed for satisfaction: The impact of single-family room neonatal intensive care units on family and visitors.* *Journal of Perinatal and Neonatal Nursing*, 39(4).

Julien-Bell, S., & Lammers, J. C. (2024). *Wellness in the workplace.* In V. D. Miller & M. S. Poole (Eds.), *DeGruyter’s organizational communication theory and research handbook* (pp. 505-523). DeGruyter. <https://doi.org/10.1515/9783110718508-026>

FACULTY NEWS AND AWARDS



KEY INITIATIVES



Your support of these key initiatives will help us achieve our vision to be THE innovative academic center preparing students as the most trusted partners in health care.

1

ALLIED HEALTH CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

Our Allied Health Certificate Programs, in programs such as Surgical Technologist, Pharmacy Technician and Central Sterile Technician, aim to provide students with foundational skills required for various healthcare roles. By emphasizing practical skills and knowledge, we empower students to enter the workforce swiftly and effectively. These programs will play a crucial role in addressing the growing demand for qualified healthcare professionals in our communities.

Resources Needed:

- Training Equipment
- Academic Technology*
- Electronic Training Materials

***Areas of greatest need**

2

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM

The BS in Public Health program will focus on the integral aspects of health promotion, disease prevention, and community health management. This program enhances our students' ability to contribute to public health initiatives, ultimately leading to healthier populations and improved community welfare.

Resources Needed:

- Academic Technology
- Laboratory Equipment*

3

TWO-YEAR ASSOCIATE DEGREE RN PROGRAM

Our two-year Associate Degree RN program is designed to fast-track students into the nursing profession. By providing a comprehensive curriculum and hands-on clinical experiences, we ensure our graduates are well-prepared to meet the challenges of today's healthcare environment, supporting our commitment to meet regional health needs.

Resources Needed:

- Simulation Equipment
- Academic Technology
- Nursing Skills Laboratory Supplies*
- Electronic Training Materials

All paths from MCCN lead to the best and brightest futures!



4

CERTIFIED REGISTERED NURSE ANESTHETIST (CRNA) PROGRAM

The CRNA program will train advanced practice nurses to specialize in anesthesia care. With the ongoing need for anesthesia professionals, our program aims to develop skilled practitioners who can enhance patient outcomes and safety during surgical procedures.

Resources Needed:

- Anesthesia Equipment
- Operating Room Equipment
- Advanced Anesthesia
- Simulation Equipment*
- Anesthesia Skills Laboratory Supplies

5

FACILITIES UPDATE PLAN


To support these exciting new programs, we need to enhance our physical facilities. Our Facilities Update Plan includes modernizing classrooms, laboratories, and simulation centers to provide students with state-of-the-art learning environments conducive to academic excellence and innovation in healthcare.

Resources Needed:


- Funding to Update Learning Environments*
- Classroom Furniture
- Academic Technology
- Hospital Equipment




MOUNT CARMEL
College of Nursing
A Member of Trinity Health



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DANIEL ABBEY '12, MSN, RN, EMT-P,
BRINGS EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO THE
HEALTH SYSTEM AND BEYOND



As Regional Director at the Center for System Education, MCCN alumnus Daniel (Dan) Abbey can often be found in Mount Carmel's mobile learning center truck, providing health education opportunities to everyone from school age children to nursing students and physicians from Mount Carmel Medical Group, among others.

Founded in August 2012, the Center for System Education was originally created to support graduate medical and nursing education at MCHS and MCCN. It has grown to support education throughout the health system, the College, and local and regional EMS partners.

In 2015, through the City Leaders Academy, a program created by the City of Columbus Mayor’s office, Abbey and his team began to bring health education opportunities to area high schoolers. “We brought the kids in for an entire day and they had opportunities to talk with health system leaders, physicians, nurses and other professionals,” said Abbey. “Many of these students didn’t have anyone in their orbit who worked in healthcare, so they weren’t aware of all the career opportunities that might be available to them in our industry, including, of course, the medical professions, but also technology, food and nutrition, facilities management and others. Our leaders shared their career stories, talking about overcoming challenges and how they succeeded. We also provided age-appropriate simulations and other fun activities.”

Some of the local schools that have experienced the learning activities via the mobile learning center include Our Lady of Hope, Fairfield Career Center, Bishop Hartley and Southwestern City Schools. “Most recently, we hosted 21 Southwestern students

at Mount Carmel Franklinton for a six-hour, immersive experience where we shared information and simulation experiences about heart function, delivery, and neonate care,” said Abbey.

“We’ve also made our mobile learning truck available to the general public at COSI, where we provide basic information and smart TVs with appropriate content,” Abbey said.

The Center for System Education has four pillars that guide the work:

1. Clinical skills and simulation center (mobile truck)
2. Education and instructional design
3. Interprofessional continuing education
4. Graduate medical education student placement – medical students and nurses

Beyond the immediate area, the Center’s mobile learning capabilities have been used to train sexual assault nurse examiners (SANE) in other areas of Ohio. And, at the Southwest Career Academy, Abbey and his team worked with EMS colleagues to train 300 students on the American College of Surgeon’s Stop the Bleed® program, an effort to teach bystanders to effectively staunch bleeding in a trauma situation until medical help arrives.



“During the COVID-19 pandemic, we were called upon to help educate colleagues about care for patients in a highly-isolated environment,” said Abbey. “We also facilitated getting learning content online and accessible to our nursing students so they could continue their education uninterrupted during the height of the pandemic.”

UNIQUE SKILLS, COMBINED WITH A LOVE FOR LEARNING DRIVES SUCCESS FOR LEARNING CENTER TEAM

The team that Dan Abbey leads are highly-skilled and come from diverse backgrounds and professional fields. What they have in common, though – a love for learning – rises to the top of their work on behalf of Mount Carmel.

Paramedic Jeffrey Gamble, AHA and SIM coordinator, oversees all of the advanced cardio life support training for the health system. His 1,600 students each year include paramedics, nurses, licensed practical nurses, physicians, nursing students, nurse practitioners and medical students. “I love teaching because you never stop learning,” he says. “Our team is a diverse group who is very supportive right from the top down.” In addition to paramedics outside the Mount Carmel system, Gamble provides advanced cardio life support training to professionals at Nationwide Children’s Hospital.

Cassandra Southworth, MS, RN, has worked at the Center since 2016. She teaches unlicensed assistive personnel (UAP) orientation classes as well as phlebotomy classes. “We work with MCHS, the Medical Group and MCCN interacting with the new, unlicensed colleagues,” she said. “Many are working with patients for the first time. We focus on patient safety and quality.” Southworth’s work includes periodic check-ins with colleagues to identify opportunities for additional training and skills development.

Shannon Duncan, BSW, is a student placement coordinator – generally 500 to 600 people each year. Our Learning

The Center for System Education and its nine team members impact more than 15,000 people annually, in and outside of Mount Carmel. Abbey plans to continue evolving its capabilities and has recently launched a department podcast to share the latest news and information about the Center.

Center team is so helpful, has a “can do” attitude and everybody pitches in as needed,” she said.

Mathew Stryker, MEd, is the e-learning guru, whose skills were put to the ultimate test when the COVID-19 pandemic forced so much of the health system and college courses to move online. Stryker comes from a public school background, and uses his talents and experience to create computer-based training for the 8,000 to 10,000 online learners, including all Mount Carmel colleagues, each year. He said, “Our team has lots of unique skills and abilities, as well as perspectives. We each have our roles and responsibilities, but work so well as a team, too.”

Team member Melanie Erbaugh, ACNP, has been with Mount Carmel for almost five years. “I work to onboard unlicensed techs, teaching them how to draw blood and developing other job-related skills,” she said. “There is always something new to learn and tech, and I love helping students, especially those who have never worked in healthcare.”

Simulation Coordinator Jonathan March, BA, is a paramedic who teaches, can provide a lecture or run the manikin for SIM sessions. “This team is a deep pool of education consultants,” he said. “There’s so much collective knowledge on this team. We’re each expert in a particular and collectively, we’re a force,” he said.

Editor’s Note:

The team also includes two individuals who were not able to participate in the interview for this story.

Heidi Craig - Department Coordinator who focuses on operational logistics for scheduling training, ensuring availability of supplies, and equipment.

Keith Senig - Simulation Specialist who assists with training simulations and leads the creation of manufacturing training models to improve the skills of our healthcare team members.

COLLEGE QUICK READ

New volunteer opportunities available at MCCN

In January, Mount Carmel Health System expanded its volunteer program to include opportunities at Mount Carmel College of Nursing. Whether it's greeting students on special welcome days, assisting with events and activities, stocking the skills lab, or helping in the library, there will be great ways to get involved at the College.

Applications to participate in this new opportunity are now being accepted. All volunteers are required to complete a TB test, provide immunization records or complete immunization testing, and provide documentation of a flu vaccination during flu season. Medical and religious exemption forms are approved on a case-by-case basis.

The majority of volunteer shifts are four hours long and fall between 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information, please visit <https://www.mountcarmelhealth.com/for-patients-after-your-visit-volunteer>.

Mount Carmel New Albany ED opening

On October 22, 2024, Mount Carmel New Albany's new, full-service, 24-hour Emergency Department opened to patients as part of our award-winning orthopedic hospital. With a longstanding history of exceptional patient care, we expanded our commitment to the community by bringing expert, compassionate emergency care around the clock.

Mount Carmel College of Nursing's mascot, Mighty Night, had a great time greeting the community--and maybe some future nurses--at the grand opening celebration on October 19.





FRANCES "FRAN" REPASKY TUCKER '72, RN, HONORED WITH MCCN SCHOLARSHIPS GIVEN IN HER MEMORY



L to R: Fran Repasky Tucker, Bernadette Rapp Coats, Theresa Yerardi Heitzenrater, Sandra Beatty Gentry, Pat Steele Skunda

Two MCCN students received scholarships in memory of Fran Tucker at the 2024 Scholarship and Donor Recognition Dinner. Mariah Joyce received the Fran Tucker Memorial Family Scholarship and Emily Thompson received the Class of 1972 Fran Repasky Tucker Scholarship.

“It was an honor to meet the students who will benefit from these scholarships created to honor Fran’s life, work and memory,” said Kevin Tucker, her husband of nearly 50 years. “Fran had financial help – scholarships and grants – to help pay for nursing school and felt she may not have gotten through without that assistance. Being able to help the next generation of Mount Carmel nurses is something Fran would have loved.”

In addition to the family’s scholarship, Fran’s Mount Carmel classmates created a scholarship to honor their beloved friend. According to Kevin, Fran cherished her lifelong friendships with her Mount Carmel classmates.

“She often recalled memories of her time at the School of Nursing and the good, good people that she met there. From pizza and mass nights on Wednesday, to roommate shenanigans, and great guidance and instruction from the nuns and other faculty, her time at Mount Carmel was foundational to her approach to nursing and to life. She was proud of it and wore it as a badge of honor, especially professionally practicing. He was a pre-med student at the time, working as an orderly at Clinton Memorial Hospital in Wilmington, Ohio. She was a nurse on the pediatric/minor surgery floor. “I worked on her floor, so had an opportunity to get to know her,” said Kevin. “I thought she was the most beautiful thing I had ever seen.”

Kevin’s multiple attempts to impress Fran by helping her with procedures and his stellar prep of a surgery patient, whom he admittedly shaved multiple times to achieve perfection, earned him a coveted date with Fran. They married in April 1974.

Fran worked for 20 years in pediatric nursing and then for the Ohio Department of Health as a Nurse Surveyor, inspecting nursing home and group residential facilities. She retired in 2011 after nearly 40 years in nursing.

Throughout her career, Fran Tucker relied on the foundational education she received at the Mount Carmel School of Nursing. “She valued her Mount Carmel education and its focus on excellence to deliver care to patients and educate other nurses,” said Kevin.

Fran, 73, passed away on January 20, 2024, after a brief illness. In addition to her husband, Fran is survived by her sons, Cassidy, who attended the Scholarship Dinner with his father, Carson, Casey and daughter, Courtney, their spouses, three grandsons, two brothers and a sister, as well as in-laws, cousins, nieces and nephews.



L to R: Bernadette Rapp Coats, Pat Steele Skunda, Emily Thompson, Kevin Tucker



L to R: Mariah Joyce, Kevin Tucker, Cassidy Tucker, Emily Thompson

“I chose nursing as my career path for many different reasons. One is that I get many opportunities to provide my patients with health education, which empowers them to live healthier lives. Another is to honor my own grandmother and continue her legacy, as she was also a nurse. One last reason is that nursing is a broad term for many different jobs and roles; there are so many different types of nursing to choose from! I chose MCCN because of their ideal class sizes, real world application of education, and in-depth clinicals. After graduation, I plan on continuing my education by going to grad school and earning my MSN. I plan on becoming a Family Nurse Practitioner, which will allow me to expand my scope of practice, and hopefully help more people lead healthy lives. I hear that Mount Carmel has a great MSN FNP program. This scholarship will assist me by going directly towards my tuition cost, allowing me to relieve some mental stress associated with the costs of a quality education. With graduation quickly approaching, I can have one less thing to worry about. Thanks so much again for blessing me with this scholarship!”

MCCN Senior Student Emily Thompson

GREETINGS FROM YOUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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 2025 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) and follow instructions there.

Alumni UP



Has your name changed since graduation?

If so, please don't forget to notify us so we can update your educational record and your contact information. Please contact Records & Registration, at 614.234.3959 or by email at registrar@mccn.edu.



Annual Membership
plus fee \$41.50 total



Lifetime Membership
plus fee \$257.75 total

Get Involved!

dates

Please stay in touch with the Alumni Affairs office about any changes in your contact information as soon as you can so you don't miss any news! Also, please let us know your career path since graduation so we can include it in an upcoming issue of *the LAMP* or our online newsletter *AlumNews*.

**Note Our NEW
Email address!
alumniaffairs@mccn.edu**

Your College Email Address

Please note: All College email addresses will now be deactivated six months after a student graduates.

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

Karen Powell '82, BSN, RN

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

Ex-Officio: Alison Jones, Mount Carmel Foundation



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 2025 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.

Mary Ann Clark Nethers ('46) lives in Oviedo, Florida. She writes, "I have always appreciated having a Mount Carmel background."

Noreen Prostko Allen ('74) lives in Eaton, Georgia. She has had a varied career in several states, including Tennessee, Virginia, and Georgia. She has been a school nurse, an assistant head nurse, case manager, certified rehab nurse and nurse manager. Her field has been concentrated on ortho neuro surg and brain injury rehab. In 2011 she received her BSN from Excelsior University. She retired from full time nursing in 2015 and worked prn until 2017.

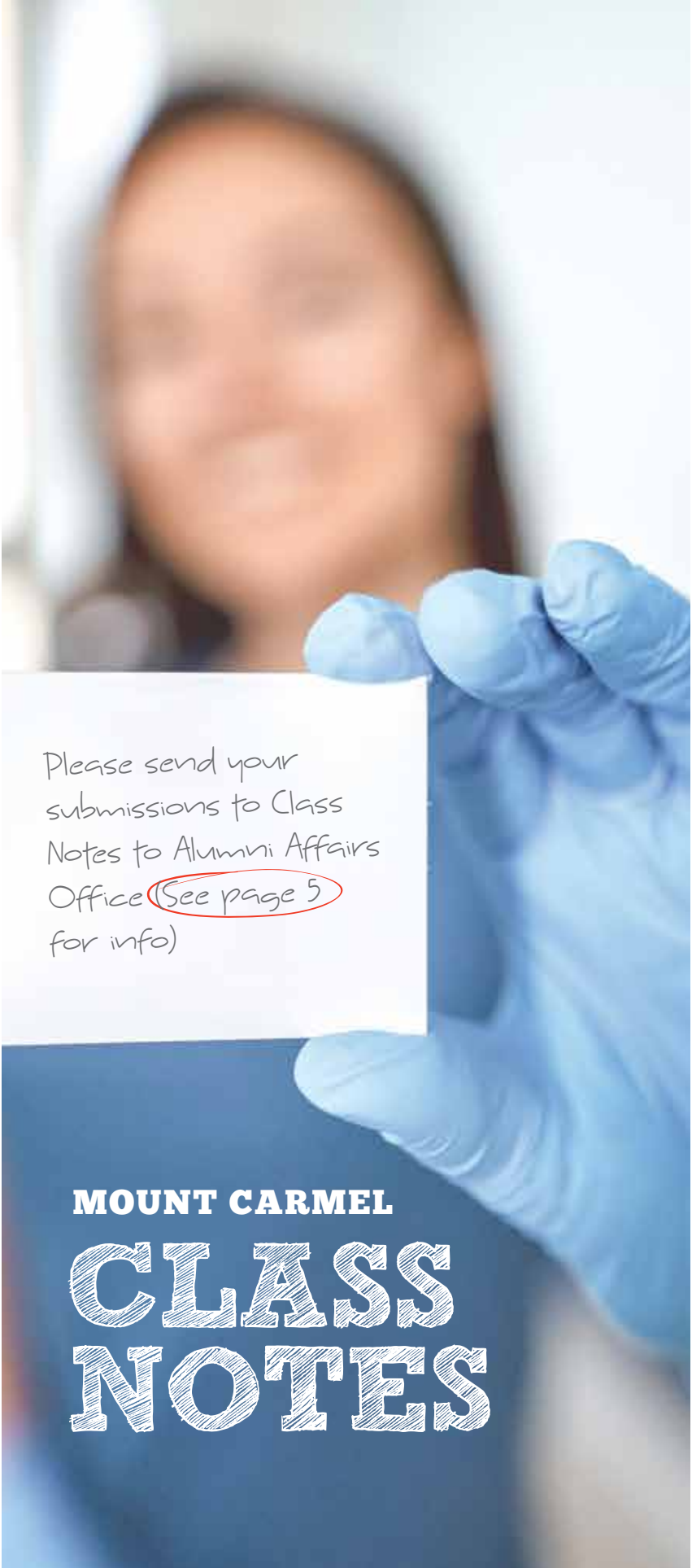
Madelyn Kern deRoche ('74) lives in Erie, Colorado. She does volunteer work at The Bridges. The organization serves the homeless with job training with the goal of becoming productive citizens.

Lora Diane Laughorn Harris ('74) lives in Columbus, Ohio, and has been married for 51 years. She worked 30 years in private practice.

Catherine Post Walters ('74) lives in Celina, Ohio, has been married 46 years and has two children and two grandchildren. Her nursing career spanned 44 years and involved hospital work as well as occupational health. She retired in 2018. She writes, "I am happy being a farm wife and full-time grandma! My favorite pastime is riding my golf cart around on the farm and watching my ducks and other wildlife on our pond."

Jozefa Mentrak Herson ('97) is married and lives in the Eastmoor area of Columbus, Ohio. She has five children and one granddaughter. She was a critical care nurse for seven years. She writes, "I attended The University of Akron and obtained my MSN in Nurse Anesthesia in 2005. I am the Lead CRNA at Western Sedation Associates for OneGI. I recently received a Certificate in Healthcare Leadership from the Rotman School of Management at The University of Toronto."

We love hearing your news!



Please send your
submissions to Class
Notes to Alumni Affairs
Office (See page 5
for info)

MOUNT CARMEL
CLASS
NOTES

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.

Gertrude Wright Betts — Class of 1949

Patricia Ann Boeke Verhoff — Class of 1956

Lois Rey Bibart — Class of 1963

Su Holland Zerwin — Class of 1963

Sondra Young Abernathy — Class of 1964, mother of Stacy Abernathy, Class of 1987

Sharon Johnson Miller — Class of 1965

Anna Rice Tomlinson — Class of 1968, daughter of Eleanor Rice Wilson, former Director of Mount Carmel School of Nursing, and mother of Megan Tomlinson, Class of 1999

Kathy Pittinger Cassady — Class of 1969

Fran Repasky Tucker — Class of 1972

Maria Tata Barr — Class of 1974

Becky Yates Taylor — Class of 1974

Lori Distlehorst Heizenrater — Class of 2012, daughter-in-law of Theresa Yerardi Heizenrater, class of 1972

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

Dr. Robert Ludwig, MCW physician

Margaret Lutz, MCCN Behavior Health instructor (retired)

Son of Nan Shoup McConnaughey '63

Mother of Julie Seymour Searls '16

Brother of Peg Seelig '74

Tell us what you're up to!

NAME _____

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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.