

# MERCY SCHOOL

# of NURSING

# alumni news

## *Haney retires*

Dona Haney, nurse educator at Mercy School of Nursing, retired in August after 43 years in the healthcare field. Dona received her BSN in 1969 and her MSN in 1984 from the University of North Carolina - Charlotte. Dona was inducted into Sigma Theta Tau (the nursing honor society) at UNCC in 1981 and received the Leadership Award in 1991.

Dona's first years as a registered nurse were spent at Charlotte Memorial Hospital (now CMC-Main) as a staff nurse, then head nurse on a surgical unit. During this time, she also was a clinical instructor for UNCC. In 1977, Dona joined Mercy Hospital (now CMC-Mercy) as the first Infection Control nurse clinician. In this capacity, Dona witnessed many changes in practices associated with Infection Control during her 25 years in this field. She also had the



*Dona Haney*

*Continued page 2.*

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

*...revived!*



The official kickoff for the revival of the Mercy School of Nursing Alumni Association was celebrated with a get together for Charlotte area alumni at CMC – Mercy Hospital on January 31, 2012.

This special evening started with a social hour at the Spirit of Mercy History Room, located at CMC-Mercy Hospital. This unique room was created by Lynda Opdyke, former MSON Associate Dean, to showcase memorabilia from the original MSON building, and Mercy Hospital.



After the social hour and hospital tours, the alumni reconvened in the hospital auditorium for a program that included updates on CMC-Mercy Hospital, Mercy School of Nursing and plans for the new MSON Alumni Association.

## From the Dean

On August 3, 2012, Mercy School of Nursing graduated 35 new nurses. This is a very special time in the lives of our students. From the beginning of their time at Mercy School of Nursing, our students have been working hard to reach this goal in their educational journey. As faculty and administration we celebrate with them but continue to encourage them on a path of lifelong learning once they graduate. At Mercy School of Nursing, we talk to our students about obtaining their BSN and eventually graduate nursing education.



Debbie Blackwell

North Carolina along with the rest of the country is facing a nursing workforce shortage that will impact the quality of healthcare. The NC Center for Nursing forecasts that without significant changes there will be a potential shortage of 32,000 registered nurses in the state of North Carolina by 2020 (NC Center for Nursing, 2006). There is a demand for an increase in the educational preparation of nurses due to the technological advances in healthcare and increased patient acuity faced by nurses today as well as nurses of the future. The 2004 NC Institute of Medicine (IOM) Nursing Workforce Report and the 2010 IOM Report on the Future of Nursing have recommended that the proportion of baccalaureate-prepared nurses (BSN) be increased to 60% and 80% respectively by 2020. In the United States, a majority of new nursing graduates received their nursing education from an associate degree program.

Mercy School of Nursing (MSON) has formed an educational partnership with Cabarrus College of Health Sciences to answer the IOM Report's recommendation for increasing the number of baccalaureate-prepared nurses. Beginning in the fall semester 2012, students can be dually enrolled as a Mercy School of Nursing student and a non-degree Cabarrus College of Health Sciences student. MSN students will be able to take general education courses toward the completion of their BSN at Cabarrus College while taking pre-licensure nursing courses at Mercy. Students will sign a letter of intent during their second semester at MSN indicating their desire to continue on at Cabarrus College upon graduation. Graduates who have maintained a 2.5 GPA at MSN and pass the NCLEX-RN to obtain licensure will automatically transition to Cabarrus College's RN-BSN program to complete the post-licensure nursing courses required to complete a BSN. The total enrollment time to complete both programs is 32-36 months. Mercy School of Nursing and Cabarrus College of Health Sciences are excited to provide this new educational pathway for Mercy students. For further information about this option, please contact Angel Vasquez at Mercy School of Nursing or Molly Patton at Cabarrus College of Health Sciences.

## You GET TO NAME THE NEWSLETTER!

This is YOUR newsletter, and you get to choose the name! All submissions will be presented and voted on at the November 28 Alumni Association meeting. Submit your name recommendation by phone, fax or email by November 27 to Ruthie Mihal: [alumni@carolinashealthcare.org](mailto:alumni@carolinashealthcare.org); fax: (704) 512-2050; or mail: MSN / 701-B Forest Point Circle Charlotte, NC 28273.

## Faculty accomplishments

Tara McMillan-Queen, nursing faculty for Adult Health II, was selected as one of the Great 100 Nurses of North Carolina for 2012. Ms. McMillan-Queen joins Barbara Holliday (2010), Teresa Anderson (2009), Angel Vasquez (2005), and Lise Turner (1994) as the newest recipient of this prestigious award which acknowledges 100 North Carolina Nurses annually who demonstrate excellence in practice and commitment to their profession.

*Haney; cont'd from page 1.*

distinction of working with the first AIDS patient in the community. As recognition for her body of work in this field, she was chosen as one of the North Carolina Great 100 Nurses in 1990 and was named the North Carolina Practitioner of the Year by the Association of Professionals in Infection Control (APIC) in 1991.

Dona joined the Mercy School of Nursing faculty in 2003. For nine years, she was a role model and mentor for more than 750 students as she nurtured them toward becoming skilled and professional registered nurses. In recognition of her dedication to CMC-Mercy, Mercy School of Nursing and her students, she was recognized for commitment by CMC-Mercy on the Values in Action Wall in 2012.

As a nurse, Dona was an active participant in the many transformations in healthcare and nursing education. Through it all, she always conducted herself with dignity, grace, and professionalism. Her warmth and caring attitude was evident in any role she assumed. These qualities made her a valuable asset in her role as a nurse educator, mentoring the next generation of nurses. Her commitment to CMC-Mercy, her colleagues, her community and those she served, and continues to serve, is more than a word. It is her lifestyle. She will be missed.

# From the alumni association president



**Lisa Mundt Foster, RN, BSN**  
Class of 1986

As I contemplated what I wanted to say to all Mercy Alumni this first newsletter, the words “pride, family and memories” kept circling in my head. Pride because it is an amazing feeling to be able to say that we are Mercy nurses. I still remember the overwhelming joy I felt when I received my acceptance letter in 1983. I told everyone I could that I was a nursing student at Mercy Hospital School of Nursing. It was not enough for me to just say “Mercy,” I had to say the whole name – every time! That pride continues to this day.

I was lucky enough to stand before a large group of alumni last January at our first meet and greet event. What an amazing turnout we had and what a lovely experience it was to see friends greet each other as though they were long lost family. That is what being a Mercy nurse does for us. It creates family. And no matter how far we all roam or how long it has been since we have seen each other, we pick right back up where we left off each time we see each other. Our family is large and extended and with each graduating class our family expands.

Lastly the memories, oh the memories! Each class has its memories and share of stories. For those of us who were fortunate to live in the dorm there would be shared stories among the classes of sunbathing on the roof or (gasp) a boy snuck upstairs! For all of us there are the memories of clinical situations we survived or all-night study sessions that turned into moments of hilarity because we were just so stressed and tired. Those memories forge a close bond amongst all of us.

Our alumni association is experiencing an exhilarating rebirth and I want to encourage each of you to become involved. There are many ways in which to do so. Become an active member by coming to the meetings and if so inclined, take on a leadership role. Help to plan an alumni outing or just come to one. “Like” our page on Facebook and throw in the occasional comment or post. We have many exciting opportunities ahead of us, not only for our alumni, but also to begin to embrace our future family members as we plan activities that combine alumni and active students. If you come to a meeting, bring another Mercy grad with you. In fact, a prize will be given to the Mercy alum who brings the most new guests (eligible to join: must be an alumnus) to our November 27th meeting!

I look forward to working with all of you as we grow our Alumni Association and I welcome any suggestions or comments you may have about how to make the association what you want it to be.

## School news

It seems hard to believe that it has been six years since the school’s move to the Forest Point location. The time has gone by quickly, especially with all the activities that have taken place. Striving for excellence is an everyday occurrence, but I want to highlight a few shining moments.



**Pamela Hatley, MSN, RN**  
Director of Student Services

Through the dedication of the faculty and staff, MSON was able to offer an evening/ weekend program for working adults, beginning in the fall of 2009. MSON continued to offer the standard day program as well. This small inaugural class graduated in December of 2012. Two more evening classes were added in fall 2010 and fall 2011. Beginning in the spring of 2013, MSON will admit a full evening/ weekend cohort that will complete the program by August of 2014. The school offers the only entry-level evening program in Mecklenburg and surrounding counties.

In August of 2011, the school was selected by the North Carolina Nurses Association to receive Hallmarks of Healthy Workplaces recognition. MSON was the first (and so far only) nursing education program in the state to receive this honor. Additionally, the school received full accreditation by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Committee in March of 2012.

Most recently, the school has begun working with Cabarrus College of Health Sciences to offer MSON students an opportunity to complete classes that will lead to a bachelor’s degree in nursing while enrolled at MSON. Current students are eligible to take up to 18 credit hours. Once the student graduates and passes the NCLEX, it is possible that the graduate could receive the bachelor’s degree in three additional semesters at Cabarrus. This is exciting news for our students and has generated a great deal of interest.

# Class notes...

## 1943

**Elizabeth J. Kerr**, now retired, served 22 months in the Army Nursing Corp. as a 1st Lieutenant in Georgia, Manilla, and Japan. She also worked for the VA Hospital, the Nalle Clinic, and a private practice.

## 1947

**Helen Baity Marks** is retired after 25 years of service at CMC-Mercy Hospital. She has two children and four grandchildren.

**Betty Ruth Buie McGinnis** retired in 1991 after 17 years of service at St. Joseph's Hospital in Phoenix, Arizona. She has three children and one grandchild.

## 1948

**Ethel Parks Oakley** is retired and living in Burlington, North Carolina. She enjoys helping a friend with her design and retail business.

**Katherine Carson Pitts** is retired from High Point Surgical Center in High Point, North Carolina. She resides in Raleigh, North Carolina near her children.

## 1949

**Clara Dawkins Hawkins** has been retired for 23 years after working in North Carolina, Iowa, and Virginia. She and her husband of 61 years reside in Blacksburg, Virginia. She has three children and seven grandchildren.

**Patricia Ann Bees Jensen** is retired, living in Portland, Oregon. She has two sons and three grandchildren.

**Mary Randall Walker** is retired, living in Charlotte, North Carolina and is enjoying life one day at a time.

## 1950

**Agnes Tucker Horsley** resides in a retirement facility in Gastonia, North Carolina. She enjoys doing as little as possible.

## 1951

**Maureen Miller Echols** has been married to her husband, John Echols for 47 years. They have three children and eight

grandchildren. She retired in 1996, but continues to do volunteer work and helps at area health fairs. She resides in Warner Robins, Georgia.

## 1952

**Margaret Hovis Crenshaw** retired in 1994 and resides in Cramerton, North Carolina. She has two children and three grandchildren.

**Barbara Jean Hass Harris** is retired and enjoying life in Cashiers, North Carolina.

**Shirley Poteet Murdock** resides in Charlotte, North Carolina. She has three sons and two grandsons. She is very active in her church (Park Road Baptist), and very happy!

## 1954

**Therese Browne Abraham** resides in Canadian, Texas where she served as mayor for ten years. She and her husband, Malouf, have donated their home and art collection to establish a museum in Canadian called The Citadel. They have three sons.

**Judith (Judy) Collins Drake** resides in Burgaw, North Carolina with her husband Jim. They have five children.

## 1955

**Lillian Arrington Holder** is currently managing rental properties and living on a farm growing blueberries and organic produce in Mt. Airy, North Carolina. She has three children and three grandchildren.

## 1956

**Charlotte Presley Roseman** is retired living in Irmo, South Carolina. Previously, she was president of the South Carolina Association of Nurse Anesthetists and director for the School of Anesthesia at Richland Memorial Hospital in Columbia, South Carolina.

## 1957

**Barbara Cornelius Everhart** is retired and living in Spencer, North Carolina. She has had some health problems but reports that she is "still vertical and mostly sane." She has four children.

## 1960

**Joyce (Carole) Martin Cummings** is retired living in Huntersville, North Carolina. She has a daughter and a six-year-old grandson.

**Margaret Anne (Peggy) Markwaler Taylor** is retired, living in Knightdale, North Carolina. She has five children and 15 grandchildren. She spends her free time as a volunteer score keeper for high school basketball, and has done so for the past 29 years.

**Patricia (Pat) Williams** has continued her interest in classical and church music as a member of her church's hand bell and chancel choirs, as well as the Charlotte Concert Band at Queens University. She has two (now grown) god-children that call her their Aunt Pat. She plans to relocate back to her hometown of Lenoir, North Carolina, and become active with the new Hospice unit.

## 1961

**Elizabeth Francis McLaurin** resides in Telford, Pennsylvania. She devotes her time to her husband of 50 years, her four children and 11 grandchildren.

**Judy Jones Parks** moved back to Charlotte, North Carolina from upstate New York in 1997 when her husband retired. She has been with CMC-Northeast since 1999, but working in mental health nursing since 1972. She says her granddaughters, Ivey Brook and Bailey Alexa, are the "bright lights in her life."

**Anne Armstrong Scheimberg** is happily retired, living in New York City, New York, but plans to eventually move back to her hometown of New Bern, North Carolina. Anne reports that she is still friends with many of her MSON classmates, 50 years later!

**Mania Szczerbiak Swart** resides in Castle Hayne, North Carolina. She and her husband of 50 years have 12 grandchildren. She loves water aerobics, beach trips, shopping and spending time with her high school friends.

## 1963

**Elizabeth Ann Sullivan** retired as a colonel in the Army Nurse Corps in 1997. She is currently living on Jones Island, South

Carolina, enjoying travel and retirement.

**April Rogers Whyte** and her husband retired to Las Vegas, Nevada where they enjoy travel and visiting many of the national parks close by. She reports that her class of 1963 reunites every two years, and a cruise is planned for their 2013 reunion!

## 1964

**Jane Nelson McDonnold** retired from Greenville Memorial Hospital where she worked in the OR after receiving her BSN. In retirement, she enjoys golfing and traveling on medical mission trips to Guatemala, Honduras, and India. She would love to hear from her classmates!

## 1965

**Joan Moon McLemore** is still working full time as a travel nurse, currently at Pitt Memorial Hospital.

**Marilyn Morgan Lowdermilk Medlin** is a health care coordinator for Blue Ridge Community Action in Morganton, North Carolina. She has three children and three grandchildren.

**Emily Dellinger Queener** is retired living in Southport, North Carolina. She enjoys volunteering at the Doshier Hospital flea market, being active in her church, and traveling.

## 1967

**Mary Frances Hoyle** is retired living in Wasilla, Alaska. Highlights of her professional career include: implementing a telehealth network across the arctic, owning and operating Nightingale Neighbors, Inc., being published in the International Journal of Technology Assessment in Health Care, presenting at the American Public Health Convention multiple times, serving as student intern to the US Senate Committee of Indian Affairs.

**Katherine Brunelle Pollack** is retired living in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. She and her husband, Joe, enjoy volunteering in the community, traveling and babysitting their four grandchildren.

## 1968

**Brenda Thompson Blair** resides in Whitehall, Maryland with Michael, her husband of 42 years. They have two daughters and an adopted black lab/ Great Dane mix. Brenda loves retirement!

**Linda Lennon McConnell Davis** is retired living in Jacksonville, Florida. She is a registered historical tour guide with Charleston, South Carolina's Art and History Commission, and past Auxiliary member at the Gibbes Museum of Art in Charleston. She co-authored the book *The Angel Oak Story* and is the author of *Charleston's Historical Churches and Chapels of Ease*. Linda lost her daughter, Suzy McConnell Kennedy in 2009 to Lupus. Classmates would remember Suzy as the darling three-year-old with Linda while a student at MSON.

**Kathleen Elizabeth O'Neill Hurney** retired 12 years ago after a severe work related injury. She lives in Rockville, Maryland.

**Catherine Evalena Leonard** is an instructor at Cape Fear Community College and a past North Carolina Great 100 award recipient. She resides in Wilmington, North Carolina.

## 1969

**Linda Lyles Huber Danielsen** is retired living in Hopkins, South Carolina. She is past-president and vice president of the South Carolina Public Health Association. She received the President's Award from both the South Carolina Public Health Association and South Carolina Nursing Association.

## 1970

**Susan Mooror Owens** is retired after 30 years as a CRNA. She is married to James Owens and they have two children and one granddaughter. Susan and James spend most of their time at their beach house on the Isle of Palms, South Carolina.

## 1971

**Gwen Thomy Daniel** resides in Charleston, South Carolina and is enjoying her two grandchildren.

**Mary Catherine Gocke Riley** was in the US Air Force for 20 years, then worked with children with disabilities for 16 years. She is currently retired

living in San Antonio, Texas, enjoying golf, travel and “The Life of Riley.”

## 1972

**Patricia Huffstetler (Huffie) Lauckner** continues to work in the emergency department, as she says, “after all these years.” She resides in Rock Hill, South Carolina, and would love to hear from former MSON classmates.

## 1976

**Cathy Ann Harrison** currently has an office-based anesthesia practice, teaches in an AD university program and is a captain in the US Navy. She and her husband have been married for 21 years and have a son in high school. They live in Midlothian, Virginia.

**Bonnie Yearly Smith** and her husband live in Palm Bay, Florida. They have two children and one grandchild.

**Melanie Derr Killian Jones** lives in Denver, North Carolina and has worked in the family business for the past 24 years. She has two daughters.

## 1977

**Sherri Holshouser Wolfe** works at CMC-Mercy and has two daughters who are both RNs.

## 1978

**Debra Clark Cunningham** is one of five family members who graduated from MSON between 1931 and 1978. She has been a nurse since 1975 and is currently a clinical case manager at CMC-Pineville.

**Kimberly Deese** has been in senior management for the past 15 years at Saint Vincent Medical Center in Glendale, California as well as doing some legal nurse counseling on the side.

**Penelope (Penny) Jane Rorie Deese** is “happy and living the good life” in Monroe, North Carolina, with her husband of 33 years. They have two children and two grandsons (twins!).

## 1979

**Mary Louise (Lou) Melvin Burgess** has been in public health for the past 13 years. She and her husband reside in Iron Station, North Carolina. They enjoy volunteering and spending time with their children.

**Barbara Ellen Shore Odom** worked in management and ran the ECMO program for 15 years, but has recently returned to her love of patient care in the NICN, where her career began 34 year ago. She works on the same unit where she was orientated many years ago. Barbara lives in Mooresville, North Carolina. She is married and has a daughter.

## 1980

**Carolyn Edgar Goldman** says “I love nursing”! For the past 14 years Carolyn has been self-employed as a licensed massage therapist and has nearly completed her requirements for becoming a licensed professional counselor. In the past she worked in the ICU and in infection control. She is living in Sugarland, Texas and has two sons. She has recently reunited with a boyfriend from the past and they are enjoying spending time together.

## 1982

**JoAnn Sigsby Adams** lives in Durham, North Carolina. She has three children, Matt, Nick and Natalie (twins). JoAnn lost her husband in 1997 after a two year battle with ALS.

## 1983

**Julie Ann McMahan Freeman** works at Levine Children’s Hospital. She is married with two sons and one grandson.

**Melinda Clark Offer** is currently working with a company that contracts with hospitals to abstract quality and registry data for national databases (STS, ACC). She is a member of the STS National Database Group and on the board of the National Association of Healthcare Data Professionals. She lives on an organic farm and is busy with gardening, animals, and her grandchildren. She resides in Sandpoint, Idaho.

## 1984

**Candy Rhyne Threatt** has been a case manager for Travelers Insurance for the past 26 years. She is married with one son at USC. She still gets together three to four times a year with her MSON classmates.

## 1985

**Dawn Watkins Cole** has been married to Max Cole for 26 years! They have two boys, Caleb (22) and Elijah (18). She completed her BSN in 2011 and plans to pursue her nurse practitioner degree soon. She has worked in the hospital setting and medical office, as a Salvation Army parish nurse and teaching CNAs, as well as in long-term care with Alzheimer’s patients.

**Tina Mantooth Fuller** works at CMC Pineville and recently completed her BSN.

## 1987

**Donna Lynn Worick Neil** has been a nurse at Gaston Memorial Hospital for the past 25 years. After battling breast cancer in 2003 (and winning!), she decided to switch from labor and delivery to the cancer center to help other cancer patients. She is still married to the man she dated while at MSON. They live in Belmont, North Carolina with their daughter, Sarah.

## 1990

**Diane Weisenhorn Block** has been married for 17 years and has three children. She works part-time in PACU at Gaston Memorial Hospital in Gastonia, North Carolina. She completed her BSN in 2001 and is CPAN certified.

## 1994

**Shannon Ellington Alexander** is working on her BSN and has been married to Derek Alexander for ten years. They live in Gastonia, North Carolina, with their daughter, Katie.

## 1995

**Amy Buchanan (Burgess)** is a lead RN for a general surgery operating room team with Carolinas HealthCare System. She lives in Dillsboro, North Carolina

**Georgia Pinson (Traver)** moved back to her hometown of Huntsville, Alabama. She regretfully left nursing in 2009 due to her multiple sclerosis progression, but shares that she is doing quite well and that MS will not keep her still or down! She has two granddaughters and a wonderful boyfriend, James.

## 1996

**Sheila Nichols Bailey** is an operating room nurse at CMC-Lincoln and lives in Lincolnton, North Carolina.

**Linda P. Strong** is retired and living in Charlotte, North Carolina with her husband and their cat, Moxie and dog, Lola. They spend most of their time volunteering throughout the Charlotte community. They have two daughters.

## 1997

**Carolyn Mason Cook** is a public health nurse with Gaston County Health Department, working in the maternity satellite clinic. She plans to pursue her BSN after completing her Lamaze certification.

**Rhonda Smith Libby** resides in Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina where she is a private duty nurse for children on life support. She loves nursing!

**Kimberly Lynn Brown Ross** is an oncology certified nurse (OCN). She recently served a two-year term as president of the North Carolina Oncology Management Society and was past-president of the Greater Charlotte Area Chapter of the Oncology Nursing Society.

## 1998

**Rosanne Seufert** retired from Gaston Memorial Hospital in 2007 after 32 years of service. She now enjoys volunteering as a camp nurse, at Holy Angels, and at CPCC by helping adults learn to read.

## 1999

**Angela Marie Arts** lives in Landis, North Carolina with her three children and works at CMC-Northeast.

**Emily Pressley Gibson** has worked at Gaston Memorial Hospital, on the same med-surg unit for almost 13 years. She is happiest with bedside nursing and has a passion for the care of the elderly, which is now her unit’s specialty (NICHE). She obtained her med-surg certification five years ago.

**Kelly Forbes Hill** is currently retired from CMC-Main where she worked in the emergency department as an RN II, PCCN, CFN and CNRN. She also served on eight hospital committees, was assistant nurse manager, nurse educator, chief preceptor, and an instructor for review classes for Neuro-RN certification.

## 2001

**Hawanna Dial Johnson** moved to New York as a travel nurse in 2006. She received a Nurse of the Year award from OB GYN residents in 2007 and is currently working as a school nurse in Bayside, New York. Her school is one of the largest high schools in Queens with approximately 4,000 students. She is the only healthcare professional in the building.

**(Ann) Blair Vinson Morse** is currently working part-time at CMC-Pineville as a certified diabetes educator.

**Kelly Burns Simon** is a certified emergency nurse at CMC-Pineville and the mother of two beautiful daughters.

## 2002

**Kristi Funderburk Goins** is married with two children, Emma and Owen. She worked in PICU and CCU for seven years and currently works in home care. She plans to pursue her BSN.

## 2003

**Elizabeth Wray Moser** is currently working PRN as she completes her BSN and plans to continue on to pursue her MSN at Western Carolina University. She is a therapeutic foster parent for children needing a home with medical training.

## 2004

**Cleaveland Rankin** is married with one child. He is continuing his graduate preparation for doctoral studies.

## 2005

**Wendy Atchley** resides in San Francisco, California. She received her MSN degree in June, 2012. In the past, she traveled extensively throughout the United States and Europe as a travel nurse. She currently works at California Pacific Medical Center as a cardiac rehab RN.



Presorted  
Standard Mail  
US Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 3156  
Charlotte, NC

## MERCY SCHOOL OF NURSING

701-B Forest Point Circle • Charlotte, NC 28273

### upcoming events

#### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27 - ALUMNI FALL PICNIC

11 a.m. – 2 p.m. at MSON

Picnic for alumni, students and families

#### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27

#### ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEETING AT MSON

6 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. socializing / meeting from 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.

GUEST SPEAKER: Tom Aspenwall, heart transplant recipient

SERVICE PROJECT: Bring donations for Holy Angels, a private, nonprofit corporation, founded in 1956 by the Sisters of Mercy in Belmont, NC, that provides a home for children and adults with intellectual and physical disabilities. For a list of suggested items contact **Ruthie Mihal** at (704) 609-1542 or

[alumni@carolinashealthcare.org](mailto:alumni@carolinashealthcare.org).

#### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13 - GRADUATION

#### APRIL 12-21, 2013 - ALUMNI TRIP TO FRANCE!

Contact **Ruthie Mihal** at (704) 609-1542.

**Erin Geter** currently works at CMC-Pineville in the maternity center. She loves labor and delivery! She is married with two beautiful daughters.

**Ashley Lundin Horne** works in the pediatric emergency department at CMC. She is married and has a daughter, Gabriella.

**Catherine Churchill McDonald** recently completed her BSN. She is married with three beautiful children; Ashlynn, Sean and Colton.

### 2006

**Kathryn Whiteford Wilcox** resides in Concord, North Carolina with her new husband, Brad, and their spoiled dog, Muggle.

### 2007

**Katheryn (Katie) Johnson Biga** works in the NICU at Levine Children's Hospital. She loves her job and loves taking care of the babies! She recently started the RN-BSN program at Winston-Salem State University and had her first child this past year, a beautiful boy named Collin. She is currently adjusting to her life as a mom.

**April Elaina Owens Smithwick** completed her BSN at UNC Charlotte and plans to attend nurse practitioner school soon.

*If there is news you'd like to share with classmates, please send that via email to [alumni@carolinashealthcare.org](mailto:alumni@carolinashealthcare.org). A memorial section will be included in all future issues to honor those alumni who have passed.*

### 2008

**Shelby Huie McNinch** is currently working at CMC in cardiac rehabilitation. She and her husband welcomed their first child, Shep, in May, 2012.

**Erin Nichols Thompson** lives in Culpeper, Virginia. She works for the University of Virginia Health System in the surgical trauma burn vascular intensive care unit, and PRN at Culpeper Regional Hospital. She is currently enrolled in an RN-BSN program and plans to attend nurse practitioner school in the future. She and her husband just welcomed their first child, Colt, in April 2012.

**Jessica Underwood** is currently working in the neuro-surgical intensive care unit at CMC-Main. She completed her BSN at Queen's University.

### 2009

**Tagi Chamblis** completed her BSN in December 2011. She is currently precepting and on the unit council and quality improvement board at CMC-Pineville.

**Audrey Byelick Yard** recently moved to Raleigh, North Carolina and works in home health. She loves getting to know her patients so well!

**Kristin Wiggins** and her husband welcomed their first child, Norah Caroline, in August 2011. She works as an OR nurse at Alamance Regional Medical Center and loves the challenge and excitement of the OR. She completed her BSN in August, 2011, and plans to pursue her master's degree in the near future.

### 2010

**Amy Aucello** spent her first year of nursing on a trauma step-down unit at CMC before moving to the OR, where she wanted to be most.

**Sarah George Breeden** resides in Pensacola, Florida and works at Sacred Heart Hospital. She and her husband, Adam, welcomed their baby boy, Colt, in April 2012.

**Craig Harder** is married with two children. He works at CMC-Mercy.

**Renee D. James** completed the RN-BSN program at UNCC in December 2011 and is currently pursuing her master's degree. She works at CMC-Main.

**Stacy Tant** works at CMC-Northeast. She is currently pursuing her BSN.

### 2011

**Michael Dustin Bass** recently completed a nurse residency program in the emergency department at Piedmont

Medical Center in Gastonia, North Carolina.

**Christine A. Chandless** works on 5 North at CMC-Mercy.

**Kayla Childers** works in the medical ICU at CMC-Main and loves it! She recently graduated from the Journey program.

**Leah K. Graeub (KT)** is currently pursuing her BSN at Cabarrus College of Health Sciences.

**Anna Kiernan** recently completed the Journey program where she, along with two other MSON grads (**David Rebello** and **Nick Schuermann**), received awards for the top three highest overall test scores!

**Lauren Lundin** is currently working at CMC-Main on 7-T and she loves it!

**David Rebello** recently completed the Journey program where he, along with two other MSON grads (**Nick Schuermann** and **Ana Kiernan**), received awards for the top three highest overall test scores!

**Nick Schuermann** recently completed the Journey program where he, along with two other MSON grads (**David Rebello** and **Ana Kiernan**), received awards for the top three highest overall test scores!