



CONNECTIONS

a publication for alumni and friends of Carolinas College of Health Sciences

Winter 2009

Carla Cozzen 2009 Outstanding Educator



Dear Alumni & Friends,

As this issue goes to press, we are ringing in a very special new year. What will make 2010 so special?

- We graduate our first class of Radiation Therapists in August.
- We will (if all goes well!) receive full accreditation for another 10 years!
- We celebrate our college's 20th birthday!

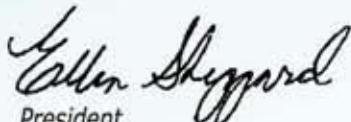


See the story on page 11 about our October birthday celebration and homecoming. Watch for your invitation, and make plans to join us! Our graduating classes of 1950 and 1960 celebrate their 50th and 60th anniversaries. Vera Smith, Class of '60, challenges her classmates to ALL come to Charlotte for the May 7 recognition. Call me for Vera's phone number and email address so you can let her know how you'll meet her challenge!

I hope the article about Carl Thomasson and Stephanie Blackmon (page 6) will touch your heart as much as it did mine. Equally touching were Stephanie's comments as she approved the article:

Thank you for choosing Mr. Thomasson to honor. Tears come to my eyes when I think of him and his wife, Susan. Many patients tell me that they do not feel my needlesticks; thanks to the way she taught me, I am the one they call for difficult IV starts. I take CCHS everywhere I go because I am proud of where I came from, proud of my skill set, and thankful for the clinical opportunities given to me at CCHS. Thank you for allowing me to walk across that stage May 5, 2005. Becoming an RN has allowed me to give, share, care and learn - whether it's at Eisenhower Army Medical Center, where I am today, or anywhere I might dream to go. Mr. Thomasson and CCHS opened a new world for me."

Call and share your special CCHS/CMH memory with me, or suggest an article for a 2010 issue of CCHS Connections!



President

Ellen.Sheppard@CarolinassCollege.edu

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cover story

Learn about Carla Cozzen, our 2009 Outstanding Educator, on page 5. Then nominate your favorite instructor for consideration in 2010.

Go to www.CarolinassCollege.edu and select Alumni & Friends/Online Forms/Outstanding Educator

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CONNECTIONS

is a publication of
Carolinass College of Health Sciences
PO Box 32861
Charlotte, NC 28232-2861

www.CarolinassCollege.edu

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School of Nursing

Debbie Blackwell

The College and the School of Nursing are preparing for accreditation visits from two important accrediting bodies. Carolinas College of Health Sciences is scheduled for its reaffirmation of accreditation visit from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) in early March 2010. In addition to the SACS visit, the School of Nursing is expecting a visit from the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC) on February 8-10, 2010. Both accreditation visits are very significant in the life of Carolinas College of Health Sciences and the School of Nursing.

So what exactly is accreditation? The process of accreditation is seen by academic institutions as a quality improvement process. The NLNAC, the accrediting body responsible for the specialized accreditation of nursing education programs, broadly refers to accreditation as "presently organized by region, profession, and type of institution, is ideally grounded in collegiality and the voluntary search for quality improvement. Specialized accreditation is usually applied to fields in which there is a recognized professional degree and where health, welfare, safety, and professional competence are matters of academic, professional, and public concern" (www.nlnac.org, 2009). Accrediting bodies like SACS and the NLNAC have quality standards by which the academic institutions are evaluated. CCHS and the School of Nursing have been required to complete a self-assessment in order to determine the level of compliance with the standards.

The philosophy of the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission states "specialized accreditation contributes to the centrality of nursing for the public good and provides for the maintenance and enhancement of educational quality; continuous self-assessment, planning, and improvement" (www.nlnac.org, 2009).

The NLNAC evaluates the nursing education unit by reviewing the written evidence submitted by the program. CCHS School of Nursing has spent a large part of the spring 2009 semester and summer 2009 semester completing the self-study report (SSR) which is the nursing program's self-assessment that addresses the NLNAC Standards and Criteria. There are six standards which consider the following major areas of concern: Mission and Administrative Capacity, Faculty and Staff, Students, Curriculum, Resources, and Outcomes. After the SSR is submitted to the NLNAC, the site visit is confirmed with the nursing program.

*There are six standards which consider the following major areas of concern:
Mission and Administrative Capacity, Faculty and Staff, Students, Curriculum, Resources, and Outcomes.*

During the site visit, NLNAC program evaluators verify, clarify, and amplify with program representatives the information presented in the self-study report and other program support documentation such as the college website and college catalog. Prior to the site visit, the public which includes program alumni have the opportunity to communicate with the NLNAC regarding the nursing program. There is an additional opportunity during the site visit at a publicized forum where alumni can also speak with program evaluators about the college and the nursing program. The exact date and time of this public forum will be shared with you closer to the time of the actual visit. I encourage you to be an active participant in this process as it assists CCHS School of Nursing in the quality improvement process. The contact information for National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission is as follows:

3343 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 500
Atlanta, GA 30326
Phone: 404.975.5000
Fax: 404.975.5020
www.nlnac.org

Debbie Blackwell
Dean, School of Nursing
Deborah.Blackwell@CarolinassCollege.edu



School of Surgical Technology

Becky Cuthbertson

Congratulations to our seven May graduates. Bryson Woodside, Danielle Donovan, and Brittany Godwin graduated with Summa Cum Laude honors. These three were also inducted into the Association of Surgical Technology National Honor Society.

Twelve students are currently enrolled in the program. The ten females and two males began in May and are approaching the mid-semester point. This semester will provide an in depth focus on General, Gynecological, Urological, and Orthopedic specialties. If you are currently employed in the CMC Main, Outpatient or Mercy surgical units you will likely encounter them. We appreciate your willingness to mentor and share your knowledge.

I was recently asked to investigate initiating/reopening a local Association of Surgical Technology chapter. When I contacted someone at the national level I learned that all local chapters have dissolved. The state assemblies have taken the place of all chapters. These assemblies meet twice a year and usually provide a full day of educational offerings. The North Carolina State Assembly met November 14th in Wilmington, NC at New Hanover Regional Medical Center. Multiple speakers, including surgeons and surgical technologists, presented various surgical topics resulting in attendees receiving 6 AST-approved CEU's. Contact [Linda Harrison](mailto:Linda.Harrison@surtec@greenvillenc.com) at surtec@greenvillenc.com for additional information about state assembly meetings.

Becky Cuthbertson
Director, School of Surgical Technology
Becky.Cuthbertson@CarolinassCollege.edu



School of Clinical Laboratory Sciences

Betty Anderson

Hello everyone,
Have you heard the great news? The BOR and the NCA have finally merged to become one certifying agency. Since the late 1970's our profession has had two certification agencies and two professional names. As of October 23, 2009 there is a new certification examination agency - the ASCP Board of Certification (BOC) and professionally we will have one name - Medical Laboratory Scientist with ASCP following it: MLS (ASCP). I know that there are many questions that you may have and the best way to get them answered is to go the web site

www.ascp.org (click on Program Director, scroll down to news and documents to see the announcement). Click on the article, scroll down to the bottom and you'll find a link to view a slide show of highlights of the merger). During this transition period please be sure that you maintain your certification whether it is with the NCA or ASCP. If your certification is not current, it seems that you will have to retake the examination. By the time you receive this newsletter you should have received additional information about this transition. This is a very exciting time for us. It will give our profession more national recognition and more power in governmental decisions that affect all laboratory professionals.

On a more local level, summer graduation was held on August 5, 2009. The eight newest graduates are Cassie Begay (Cum Laude), LaDonna Belcher (Cum Laude), Melissa Dunlap (Cum Laude), Vaidehi Patel (Cum Laude), Lauren Nickels (Magna Cum Laude), Rachel Teeter,

Kristen Humphreys (Summa Cum Laude), and Sarah Goldberg. I am happy to report that all eight passed their boards. Congratulations!

The 2009 Charles Mauney Award, given to the student with the highest microbiology grade, was awarded to Kristen Humphreys. Cassie Begay, Sarah Goldberg, Melissa Dunlap, LaDonna Belcher, and Kristen Humphreys are working at CMC in the laboratory. Lauren Nichols has moved to Ohio and is working in the core lab at Ohio University Medical Center.

I will keep you updated on the new merger information. Keep us updated on changes in your life and have a great 2010.

Betty Anderson
Director, School of Clinical Laboratory Sciences
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School of Medical Imaging

Lucy Davison

A wise college president (Ellen Sheppard) told me recently that change can be a time of wonderful opportunity. Once again the School of Radiologic Technology is experiencing tremendous change. We have recently undergone a leadership change and have a vacancy in the program director's position. I'd like to thank our administrators for the confidence they have placed in me, as interim director, to continue to move the school forward with the assistance of my co-pilots, Patty McCrary and Cathey Miller. Thanks to both of them for their enthusiastic support and tireless efforts. Also, to Cathey who will be designated as the clinical coordinator during the interim. Change? Yes. Opportunity? Absolutely!

I'd like to thank our administrators for the confidence they have placed in me, as interim director, to continue to move the school forward with the assistance of my co-pilots, Patty McCrary and Cathey Miller.

Congratulations to our graduating class of 2009. All 15 graduates passed the ARRT certification exam on the first attempt with flying colors. For 23 of the past 24 years we have had 100% pass rate on the first attempt. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to our 20 new Level I students, the Class of 2011. This class will be the first to complete the ARRT's Continued Qualifications requirements ten years following graduation. ARRT certifications awarded January 1, 2011, and thereafter will be time-limited to 10 years. What does this mean to you as a current technologist? Relax; it will not affect anyone who received certification prior to 2011.

It is with mixed emotion (mostly sadness) that Cathey Miller and I announce the retirement of our co-worker and friend, Patty McCrary, effective December 18, 2009. As clinical instructor, Patty has been a mainstay (and head cheerleader) with our program since 1990. Along with being an alumnus she has worked as a staff technologist, diagnostic supervisor, mammography tech, and radiology manager over her 32-year career. Patty received her

bachelor's degree and master's degree while working full-time at CCHS and has been a teacher, mentor, and guide to over 188 graduates since 1990. Unable to completely cut the ties, Patty has graciously agreed to teach one of our courses in the spring and will remain active with our alumni association. Thank you Patty for all that you have given to us and will continue to give through your legacy of excellent graduates. We will miss you.

Change? Yes. Opportunity? Absolutely!

So, where does that leave us? In the midst of change comes opportunity. If you have a passion for education, a strong commitment to your profession and a love of teaching, give me a call. We are currently recruiting for a full-time master's prepared program director and full-time clinical faculty, master's preferred. Thanks to those of you who have called or e-mailed your support. This program is the sum total of all of our graduates and I hope that you will continue to support us during this time of great opportunity.

Lucy Davison, BSRT(R)
Interim Program Director
School of Radiologic Technology



Alumni Association President

Kathy Bruce, RN

There comes a time when one should stop and look at how they are meeting the goals they've set. One of my goals is to be a nurse who works to see patients receive the best care possible. In order to do this, I believe one should strive to meet the core values of Carolinas Healthcare System:

CARING: having concern, acting with caution. In order to do this, I must be able to think clearly and have the knowledge needed to get the job done efficiently and with respect for the patient.

COMMITMENT: dedication. I must be careful to be committed to the right thing. Have I researched what I am committed to and what it will take to accomplish this? Am I willing to go the extra mile to help my patients?

INTEGRITY: strict compliance to an ethical standard. Am I morally right in my dealings with other people? Do I practice honesty in all that I do? Do I accept that others have the right to believe as they choose, even if it differs from my beliefs?

TEAMWORK: harmony of actions among the members of a group. Am I able to work together with others? Do I put others needs before my own?

I believe these are questions we should ask ourselves periodically so that we can keep on track with our goals.

We must be careful in what we believe or we may fall for anything.

-Kathy Bruce, RN



As I move on to another chapter in my own life, I will always remember the friendships I have developed over the years."

It is hard to imagine CCHS without Patty McCrary. And it is nearly impossible to think of the Radiologic Technology (RT) program without her. But imagine, we must, for Patty is retiring this month. She's looking forward to spending time with Ray as they devote energy to improving their 6 acres of land. Patty is a CCHS alumnus, having graduated from the RT program in 1976. Retired program director Susan Stricker remembers the class of '76 vividly: "Oh my! They were a handful! What spirit they had!" Upon graduation Patty worked as a tech at CMC (then Charlotte Memorial) but left to work in urgent care. Later, she accepted a management position at what is today CMC-Mercy. Having tried her hand and honed her skills at various facilities, in 1990 McCrary accepted a position with Charlotte Memorial as an RT instructor, helping students follow in her professional footsteps. She loved teaching, excelled at it, and never turned back. Patty completed a BS at Queens University and a master's degree at UNC Charlotte. Patty has always loved teaching and seeing students succeed. "Seeing that light bulb come on in students' eyes when I've helped them understand something - that energizes me! Or watching a student step out of her nervousness to confidently and calmly explain a procedure to a patient... nothing makes me more proud!"

Patty was honored with the 2009 Certificate of Excellence award from the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT) for outstanding performance as a clinical educator in Radiologic Sciences. She was also nominated for the College's 2009 Outstanding Educator award. Celebrating Radiologic Technology week in October, Patty said, "This will probably be my last 'Rad Tech Week,' but I will be an RT forever!"

McCrary Retires



Patty McCrary

Patty will also be missed for her enthusiasm for special projects. Whether it was dressing like a pilgrim to serve Thanksgiving turkey, or helping out with games at student orientation, Patty was always there when volunteers were needed. Though she claimed to dislike fundraising, she was masterful at it! Patty was instrumental in early CCHS fundraising for an energized lab; she was a mainstay of the annual alumni phoneathon; and her efforts jump started recent campaigns for the Susan Stricker and the Suzy Huggins Rogers Scholarships. Plus she walked the talk - contributing generously to all College causes, particularly when she knew the Rad Tech program and its students would benefit.

Her thoughts as she prepares to leave full time teaching? "I have had the honor of being a part of a great organization, a wonderful college, and very committed co-workers. I have been a part of people's lives, both students and patients, during good and bad times. So many memories and stories! As I move on to another chapter in my own life, I will always remember the friendships I have developed over the years." We wish Patty enormous happiness in retirement.

GRADS ON THE GO



Nicole Shipley Mohrmann MT (ASCP)
School of Medical Technology
Class of 2002

Nicole graduated from the Medical Technology Program at CCHS in 2002. She went on to receive her degree in Medical Technology from UNC-Wilmington. She began her career as a generalist at Ashe Memorial in Jefferson, NC, a 76-bed hospital. She did everything from registering patients to working in the blood bank. Nicole states, "Meeting patients and having that interaction helped me link together symptoms with lab results. I lived in a new environment on a mountaintop, by a bubbly stream, a Christmas tree farm, cattle, and had bonfires by night under more stars than I had ever seen."

The next year she took a new position in Hendersonville tucked away in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains, just outside Asheville. Margaret Pardee Hospital has 222 beds and during her five years there she served in the Chemistry and Transfusion Services departments. Nicole received many honors there including the Shooting Star award and was a runner up for Employee of the Year. She served as an NCABB board member and had the opportunity to learn from the best of the best in blood banking. Nicole married Joe in Cherokee on the top of Waterrock Knob and began to take advantage of all the beauty there by hiking every chance she had.

As a native of the North Carolina coast, Nicole found the mountains to be a whole new world, but she was ready to explore more places and began researching a career as a traveling tech. Not long after talking to recruiters and other laboratory professionals, she was on her way to Boston.

Being a traveling tech has many advantages such as short or long contracts, paid housing (including furnishings and utilities), rental car or payment toward your own car, food allowance, and regular benefits such as health insurance, paid time off after a year, 401K, dental, etc. Here was the opportunity to learn new instrumentation and

new methods. There is just one catch: you have to learn them fast! Most facilities that hire travelers need help right away and need someone who can adapt to new surroundings quickly and get along with others. Her assignment started as a 13-week contract at a 222-bed hospital. Sounded like it couldn't be that different from the place she had just left. Wrong! This facility was fast-paced and growing by the minute.



Kathleen Ingwall Johnson, RN, BSN
School of Nursing
Class of 2004

Kathleen has achieved many personal and professional accomplishments in a very short time. Currently she is a Vascular Nurse Coordinator at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center which is the second largest VA hospital in the country. Prior to this she was a special procedures RN in the radiology department. Last year she passed the certification exam to become a Certified Radiology Nurse. This is a 6-hour exam which covers interventional radiology, ultrasound, nuclear medicine, X-ray, MRI, Women's health, lithotripsy, cardiac catheterization, and moderate sedation just to name a few topics. Most impressively she had an article on "Injectable Portal Systems" published in the March 2009 volume of the Journal of Radiologic Nursing. She stated that receiving the adult-health nursing award at her CCHS graduation gave her the encouragement to continue her education. She obtained her BSN from University of South Alabama in 2008. She has remained enrolled at University of South Alabama and is working towards her MSN-Adult Acute Care Nurse Practitioner degree. She anticipates graduating with her MSN-NP in 2011 with plans to work in the surgical specialty area.

Just prior to her graduation from CCHS, she married her husband who was serving as a Navy pilot. He is currently completing medical school at the University of Minnesota. They have three children ages 7, 4, and 2.

They had just built their own reference lab to help keep up with the high volume. She learned new methods and ideas from people from all over the world. Boston offered so many new experiences and she loved being in a big, walkable city. Taking the train, visiting museums, famous colleges, and eating new types of foods in the North End Italian section, the St. Patty's Day parade, strolling through Chinatown - all were memories she will never forget.



Kelly Barber
School of Surgical Technology,
Class of 2007

Kelly Barber graduated from the CCHS Surgical Technology program in 2007. Like many students entering CCHS, Kelly had already completed a baccalaureate degree. Her BA in English was completed at Lees McRae College in Banner Elk where her parents were on the faculty. After coming to Charlotte, Kelly took a position with Wolf Camera and became interested in the technological aspects of film and video devices.

Years later she would incorporate that knowledge with her surgical experience in a very unique way. As she approached graduation from CCHS she became aware of a position within the department of surgery that would utilize her technological knowledge of devices and her knowledge of surgery. In her position as an equipment assistant, Kelly assists the surgical team by ensuring they have the necessary equipment for the procedure. She also assists with troubleshooting devices as needed during the procedures. Kelly finds fulfillment knowing she can help the team by anticipating the equipment/technology needs for the surgical cases, and providing troubleshooting.

Recently Kelly decided to continue her education. She enrolled in the Mercy School of Nursing weekend program. This newly designed program enables her to work while pursuing a degree in nursing. She and her family enjoy returning to the mountains, where she always feels at home.

Carla Cozzen 2009 Outstanding Educator

On behalf of its students, staff, and faculty, Carolinas College named Carla Cozzen its 2009 Outstanding Educator at the May graduation ceremony. All who are close to the College recognize the exemplary contributions that Ms. Cozzen makes to the education of CCHS students.

A phrase often used to describe Carla Cozzen as an educator is "someone who goes above and beyond what is expected." Said one student, "She never lets us settle for less than our best, and she never gives up on us when we are struggling. Ms. Cozzen is truly one of the great educators." Says Cozzen of her success, "I think truly loving what you do and being able to connect with students is critical. I am devoted to my students and it is my sincere desire that they succeed. I find teaching the most rewarding thing I have ever done. I sometimes get chills when my students excel!"

Despite her obvious talents in the classroom, her journey to the front of the classroom was circuitous. She joined the Air Force after high school and served in Germany as a jet engine mechanic working on F4E Phantoms and later on F106 jets in Fresno. She started college seven years after graduating from high school, eventually earning an undergraduate degree in zoology from the University of California at Davis and a master's degree from UNC, Charlotte. After a brief part-time teaching stint in 1997, she joined the legal profession, starting and managing a small law firm for six years. But by 2004 her love of biology drew her back to CCHS, where her passion for teaching was rewarded by student accolades such as "Carla is a great teacher; she made A&P understandable. CLONE HER!" and "She is simply extraordinary."

Outside interests include intricate scroll saw woodcutting, following NASCAR, and her 17-year old cat named "Earnie" after Dale Earnhardt. Describing her delicate woodcut designs and her Hegner scroll saw, Carla adds, "I have started a tradition of making ornaments at the end of each semester for the top students - apples with an "A+" cut into them. I really enjoy giving those to the students."

Indeed, Carla Cozzen does enjoy giving. And whether the gift is an intricately carved wooden apple, or an office hour reviewing a complex concept with a perplexed student, or a masterful lecture which turns on students' mental light bulbs... the giving comes from her heart. For all those gifts, her students and Carolinas College are very grateful recipients.



I am devoted to my students and it is my sincere desire that they succeed. I find teaching the most rewarding thing I have ever done. I sometimes get chills when my students excel!"

-- Carla Cozzen

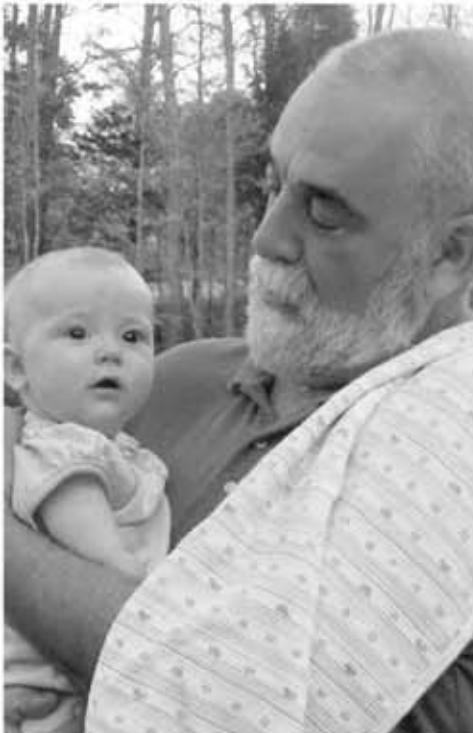
Carl Thomasson: A Man Tossing Pebbles

A pebble tossed into still water generates ever-expanding concentric circles. A bit like a tossed pebble, Carl Thomasson is at the center of a huge and ever-expanding circle of events. Good events. Events that save lives. That ever-widening cascade of circles was started by a pebble he tossed ten years ago into the still waters of a young woman's life. Only that pebble turned out to be a life preserver, and the life preserver's done its job many times over, saving more lives than Carl Thomasson could have ever imagined.

Carl Thomasson is a gentle and humble man. A native Charlottean and the son of a nurse (Marie Thomasson, longtime RN at Providence Pediatrics) and of a teacher (Andrew Thomasson, long time teacher at Derita Elementary), Carl's nature is to quietly observe others' needs. Observe, and then provide - often by reaching into his own pocket. Carl and his wife Susan, an alumnus of the college (SOMT 1976) and its Continuing Education Director, have been generous supporters of CCHS, and tireless community volunteers. But about that pebble....

Carl was managing CUP ministries, a faith based nonprofit organization which assists the needy in Charlotte with housing, food, furniture, etc. One day Stephanie Blackmon came to CUP seeking help. She'd recently moved to Charlotte from rural Virginia with the love of her life and her three children. But the love of her life quickly showed his true colors, leaving Stephanie with a pile of bills, no money, no family, no friends, no job, few skills, and three children to feed. This navy "brat" who'd traveled widely and once dreamed of going into medicine now felt she had nothing. Nothing that is, but a spark of promise. Carl Thomasson saw that spark of promise and trusted his intuition. Carl told Stephanie about the Phlebotomy program at CCHS, a 10-week program that could lead to a job.

Stephanie hated needles, but realized this could be a way out. Pretending the funds were coming from a church sponsorship, Carl paid the \$500 it took to get Stephanie enrolled in the course with a book and a set of scrubs.



When asked to provide a photo to accompany this story, Thomasson selected this one, with 1-year old granddaughter Melia Thomasson. Said Thomasson, "She represents the future. That's what's important, not me."

“I've learned that true giving is never terminal. The ripples it creates never end. And one day I will give back in the same way, to someone as needy as I was ten years ago.”

-- Stephanie Blackmon

That pebble masquerading as a life preserver began to work its magic. When Stephanie finished the phlebotomy course she had a marketable skill, but more important, she had a new sense of confidence and purpose. After working full time at CMC and then at Presbyterian, she looked for more options and realized that nursing school could open many doors. She'd heard emergency room techs

complaining about how much money RNs made. That sounded like a good thing to try! The nursing program at Charlotte's community college disappointed her, but she'd heard about the CCHS program when she was a phlebotomy student, so back she came.

After becoming an RN in 2005, Stephanie worked at CMC in Trauma Transplant Step Down then set out to see the world as a traveling nurse. She worked at Duke University Hospital in Durham and at Yale University Hospital as well as St. Raphael Hospital in New Haven, Connecticut. She's cared for patients in California and Louisiana.

Everywhere, her work has been in high intensity units with high acuity patients. Her work has been saving lives. Often she found that staff nurses turned the sickest patients over to the agency nurses to care for, but Stephanie didn't mind. "I'm good at what I do and I'm proud of how well I do it. As a new grad I ran circles around the 4-year graduates, and the more I traveled and learned more techniques, the more skilled I became." Today Stephanie's in a permanent job in Augusta, Georgia. She loves being back around a military base, especially since one of her children is in the military, one about to join, and one in ROTC. And, she recently became a grandmother!

To Carl Thomasson, she would say today, "There are no words powerful enough to thank Carl for all he has done for me and my family. His gift of discernment allowed him to have trust and confidence in me, and that gave me the courage to believe in myself. From him - and from Susan, who's been a mentor for me - I've learned that true giving is never terminal. The ripples it creates never end. And one day I will give back in the same way, to someone as needy as I was ten years ago."

And what does Carl Thomasson have to say about that? As a quiet man, not much. But he just wrote a check to the college large enough to sponsor two more phlebotomy students. Carl is a humble man who enjoys tossing pebbles. And life preservers.

For information on becoming a donor like Carl Thomasson, contact Ellen Sheppard at the College (704.355.5316) or Scott Kerr at CHF (704-355-0843).

CCHS Continues Tradition of Honoring Our Heritage

Charlotte Memorial's 50th and 60th year alumni were feted as part of the commencement exercises in May. Five from the class of 1949, and 18 from the class of 1959 (along with family members) were greeted by former CMH graduate and instructor, Elinor Caddell, members and officers of the alumni association, and staff and faculty of the college. Alumni from as far away as Massachusetts and Florida were able to join us on this momentous occasion. Alumni were lead in during the processional, seated in a special VIP section and presented with a certificate and special pin during the ceremony. Afterward, all were transported to dinner at Frankie's Italian Restaurant, a local favorite, where laughter and stories flowed for hours.

The next morning, alumni were treated to brunch in a private dining room at Carolinas Medical Center and a short presentation on the history of the hospital and the many changes that have taken place. In addition, tours were given of CMC, the new ICU area, and Levine Children's Hospital. Afterward, they enjoyed dessert at the College and a tour of the new simulation center. It was wonderful to hear the varied paths the alumni have taken since graduation and their fondest memories...couples who met at "Honey's", the "escapee" from Torrence State Hospital who showed up at CMH, the student who knocked a window out on date night, secret marriages during third year, Christmas morning carols through CMH, and capping, pinning, and graduation.



A. Russel, E. Panetti, G. Sigmon, B. Spence and K. Fox, Charlotte Memorial's SON 1949



Members of Charlotte Memorial Hospital's SON 1959



Delicious buffet brunch



K. Fox and E. Panetti, class of 1949



Dr. Lori Lieving presents Literary Award to Nga Pham



Distinguished Alumnus Harrelson receives certificate from President Sheppard



Three alumni from the 60th reunion class reminisce while waiting for the program to begin (L to R) K. Fox, E. Panetti and G. Sigmon

2009 graduates faced a challenging employment and economic climate, but on May 8 there was much to celebrate!



Captain Tracy Jezierski-Harrelson 2009 Distinguished Alumnus

Tracy grew up in the small town of Capac, Michigan. She realized when she was 14 that she wanted to be a Medical Technologist. She'd been hospitalized for two months, and when the med tech who drew her blood every morning told her about the profession, she knew she'd found her future career.

Tracy's year of study at CMC's Medical Technology program capped off her baccalaureate degree from Gardner Webb University. She worked in the microbiology department at the University of Virginia Health Sciences Center and then as a generalist in Bloomington, Indiana. Tracy's husband Rob joined the Air Force after the birth of their daughter, and they moved to Washington, DC. While working in the microbiology department at INOVA Hospital System in DC, Tracy witnessed the tragedy of the terrorist attacks on the Pentagon and helped take care of the injured. After an anthrax-laced letter was sent to the Capitol building, she and two other micro techs coordinated and screened 1500 employees from the Capitol. When one of the exposed postal workers was taken to the hospital where Tracy worked, she saw first-hand anthrax on a blood smear and growing on a blood plate.

After 13 years as a bench tech, Tracy wanted a change of pace and a new challenge, so she joined the Air Force as a lab officer. Officer Training School sharpened her leadership skills and she currently holds the rank of Captain. As a lab officer, Tracy attends monthly meetings at the Surgeon General's office to discuss lab policy, homeland defense, CAP issues, deployments, and education. She is in charge of a medical center lab with 50 lab techs as well as the lab at the Pentagon.

Cpt. Jezierski-Harrelson is a member of the 779th Medical Support Squadron, the White House Medical Unit, a six-member medical team comprised of Navy, Army, and Air Force personnel. She is responsible for the lab that serves the President and his family and assures that he has cross matched units of blood available whenever he travels.

Last spring Tracy worked with the United States Army Research Institute of Infectious Disease helping research vaccines being tested for biological warfare immunity. Her recent

certification in Joint Biological Agent Identification Diagnostic Systems prepared her to manage the Homeland Defense Lab. Tracy's lab was awarded the Air Force Medical Services' Lab Team of the Year for 2008. In 2007 she was awarded Lab Manager of the Year for the national capitol region. She is currently earning an MBA through George Mason University, and last summer was tapped to travel to Russia to help curb the outbreak of Brucella in the republic of Georgia. As this issue of Connections went to press, Tracy had received notice of deployment to Balad, Iraq, to help with the PCR testing of H1N1. She'll likely remain to work with blood banking andaphoresis for injured troops.

Carolinas College of Health Sciences congratulates Tracy on all that she's accomplished professionally, all that she's done to make a difference in the world, and on being named the CCHS 2009 Distinguished Alumnus.



2009 Distinguished Alumnus
Captain Tracy Jezierski-Harrelson
School of Medical Technology, 1992

CCHS Graduates Turn in Astonishing Results On Licensure Exams

A simple chart tells it all: CCHS graduates once again RULE when it comes to first time performance on state and national certification, licensure, and registry tests. All outcomes below are well above local, regional, and national benchmarks for excellence. For Rad Tech, this is the 23rd perfect performance in the last 24 years; for Med Tech, the 11th perfect year in the last 12 years.

CCHS 2009 Pass Rates Of graduates who tested in 2009, the percentage who passed on first writing of the exam.

	A. Number passing on first writing	B. Number taking exam	C. a/b
*Testing and certification not required for entry to practice in Surg Tech and Phlebotomy			
Nursing	113	114	99%
Medical Tech	12	12	100%
*Surgical Tech	4	5	80%
Radiologic Tech	14	14	100%
*Phlebotomy	2	2	100%
Nurse Aide (written exam)	187	187	100%
Total, Carolinas College	332	334	99.4%

Two CCHS Students Win Oncology Nursing Society Award

Opportunity for Masters Prepared RNs!

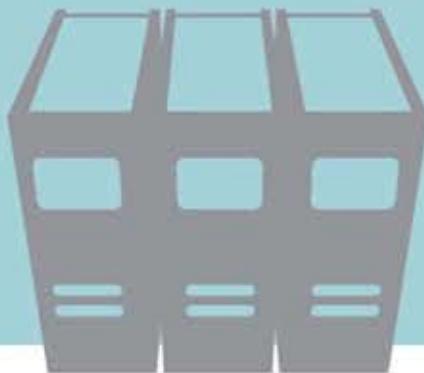
Be the Change in Nursing with Evidence-Based Nursing (EBN)



Joann Riley

Carolinas Medical Center is looking for Evidence-Based Nursing (EBN) Mentors. If you've completed a master's degree in nursing or a related field and have an interest in improving healthcare through Evidence-Based Nursing, we need you! Studies suggest that it takes over 17 years to move the research published in nursing journals to the bedside. We want to change the timeline, and you can help.

If you have completed your master's degree, work at CMC, and are interested in changing your practice by mentoring a peer in the EBN process, please contact Joann Riley at joann.riley@carolinashealthcare.org.



There are eleven nursing programs in the Charlotte area, depending on how one defines "Charlotte area." So when a contest is open to all area nursing students - it appeals to a lot of very bright students! This fall the Greater Charlotte Area Oncology Nursing Society sponsored an essay contest. The surprise wasn't the number of worthy essays submitted, but that both winners were CCHS students!

A panel of nurses read all essays submitted. Essays had been stripped of identifying factors, so the judges couldn't know who had submitted them or where the applicants were enrolled. Entries were evaluated on a variety of factors, but ultimately the judges focused on how passionate and articulate each applicant was about a career in oncology nursing. Carolinas College was proud to learn that both of the 2009 winners, Jennifer Ersek and Sarah Polk, are CCHS students. This award covers the cost of student membership in the chapter and enables these students to attend monthly educational dinner programs at various restaurants around Charlotte for the next year.

The students also won vouchers to take the ONS Cancer Basics Course and receive an ONS Career Resource Guide.

The mission of the Oncology Nursing Society, formed over 20 years ago and comprised of 100 healthcare professionals in the area, is to promote excellence in oncology nursing and quality cancer care. Obviously, they're also great judges of quality in students!



Jennifer Ersek



Sarah Polk

Charlotte Observer

CCHS Graduates Make the Charlotte Observer's Annual Nursing Excellence List

To be eligible, a nurse must be nominated by a manager or patient and meet rigorous selection criteria. Winners for 2009 included Michele Dumas, OB-GYN Services (Class of 2005), Heather Neagle, OB-GYN (Class of 2007), Cathy Parris, Med/Oncology (Class of 2005), Sarah Shinn, OB (Class of 2001), and Sue Smith, Hematology/Oncology (Class of 1995).

Carolinas College is 20 Years Old!



The history of Carolinas College of Health Sciences is rich, with roots dating back to the early 1940s (and earlier, if you include the St. Peter's story!) The more current history, however, dates back to 1990. That was the year Charlotte Memorial Hospital Authority authorized the opening of the CMHA School of Nursing as an associate degree granting institution of higher education. In 1995 the college earned regional accreditation and began its transition to a multi-program college. In short order, other CMH-based allied health programs moved under the umbrella of the college, and by 1996 the school was truly a college of nursing and allied health, and the current name was adopted.

In 2010 we will honor the college's 20th birthday with a special Homecoming! The centerpiece of the year-long celebration will be a family-focused homecoming weekend in the early fall complete with reunions for all classes, tours of the college, and a gigantic afternoon event with music, activities for children, grandchildren, and adults alike.

So the activities will be meaningful to you and your classmates, we want YOU to be part of the planning! Ways you can help:

- Ask Pat Lewis to send a list of your classmates, then help her find anyone who is missing (Pat.lewis@CarolinasCollege.edu or 704.355.2029)
- Send Pat your current email and/or phone number (see above)
- Volunteer to serve on a planning committee (Ellen.sheppard@CarolinasCollege.edu or 704.355.5316)

Watch for your invitation and vow that you WILL make it to this very special event!



CCHS's Rankin Education Center in 1990



CCHS's Rankin Education Center today

**Plan to attend Homecoming
October, 2010**

The Scene Around CCHS

Student activities continue to be an important part of the campus culture



Jonathon Jackson and Ashley Blackwell, Radiation Therapy students, enjoy the College's annual Thanksgiving Feast for students. (Jackson is also a CCHS Rad Tech alumnus.)



Fall and spring inductions into Phi Theta Kappa continue to recognize student scholarship.



Phi Theta Kappa, the College's national honor society, sells waterbottles emblazoned with the CCHS green logo as a fundraiser (L to R): Drew Blocker, Alexis Abbott, Christina Fogle.



Students Enjoy Thanksgiving Dinner
Mark MacIntyre (Rad Tech), Kimberly McClurg and Tammy Richardson (Surg Tech) linger over the November 23 Thanksgiving Feast organized by the Student Life Committee.



Relays on an inflatable slide were a hit at the annual Fall Fling.



Below: Employees celebrating a milestone year of employment were feted at a Mardi Gras themed luncheon. Clockwise around table (from left): Keathley, Davison, Roux, Cozzen, Powell, Robinson, Bradshaw, Lieving, Rillorta.



SGA officers and advisors assure that the student's voice is heard in administrative decision making.



Intermediate nursing students develop empathy for pregnant patients by simulating some symptoms of pregnancy.

CCHS Students on a Journey to Critical Care

Passionate arguments have swirled for years.....

"We need more critical care nurses!"

"New graduates aren't ready for critical care!"

"We need passionate, fresh minds for critical care!"

"Our patients are too ill for new nurses!"

Grace Sotomayor, Chief Nurse Executive of Carolinas Medical Center (CMC), took on the challenge of supporting a new graduate critical care residency program for the hospital. The eight month, fully funded program was developed by Kim Blount, Clinical Specialist and the critical care workgroup educator. Grace, Kim, and managers knew that if CMC hired the best and brightest new grads, those who could thrive in the extremely high acuity of CMC, the program could provide what new grads need to become Certified Critical Care Nurses and to begin a career caring for the sickest of the sick.

The program, affectionately dubbed "The Journey Program," recognizes that learning to be a critical care nurse is a journey within itself. With CCHS and CMC's HR personnel publicizing the course, the first cohort of new grads was selected in November 2008 and completed the program in September 2009. All are excellent bedside critical care nurses. Each possesses a passion for caring for patients.

With the second cohort of students now deep into training, Kim Blount is pleased with the program's evolution: "Early in the program we use the talents of Dawn Swiderski at the College's simulation center to teach critical thinking and assess competencies. Simulation gives the Journey students a taste of the complex nature of critical care nursing and teaches new skills and behaviors. The current class of new grads amazes us each day with their dedication to learning. They are surprisingly knowledgeable about basic nursing and have an eagerness and enthusiasm that bodes extremely well for their future in critical care nursing." Adds Dr. Ellen Sheppard, "We're so pleased that ten CCHS graduates - well over half of those now enrolled - were selected for this rigorous but rewarding program. Critical care isn't for everyone, but for these ten - the match is perfect."

With CMC's Journey Program in place and ten of the best and brightest new RNs enrolled, the care of our sickest patients just got a great shot in the arm!



2008 and 2009 CCHS Alumni in 2009 Journey Program: First row (L to R): Meagan Gregory, Cassie Anderson, Shelly Robinson, Lauren Mundorf. Second Row (L to R) Adam Polig, Sara Copeland Riley, Jessica Hunsinger, El Wanner, Katie Macedo Hayes. Not pictured - Ashley Gunzelman

Kris Earle Completes CRNA Program



Kris Earle, 1996 graduate of CCHS, completed the CRNA program at CMC/UNCC in May, having earned both a masters degree and certification as a Nurse Anesthetist. Kris joins a long list of CCHS alumni who have gone on to earn a BSN, work in critical care for at least two years, then return to school to become a CRNA.



CCHS Grad Deborah Slee
with CMC-L ED Director
Michelle Reid

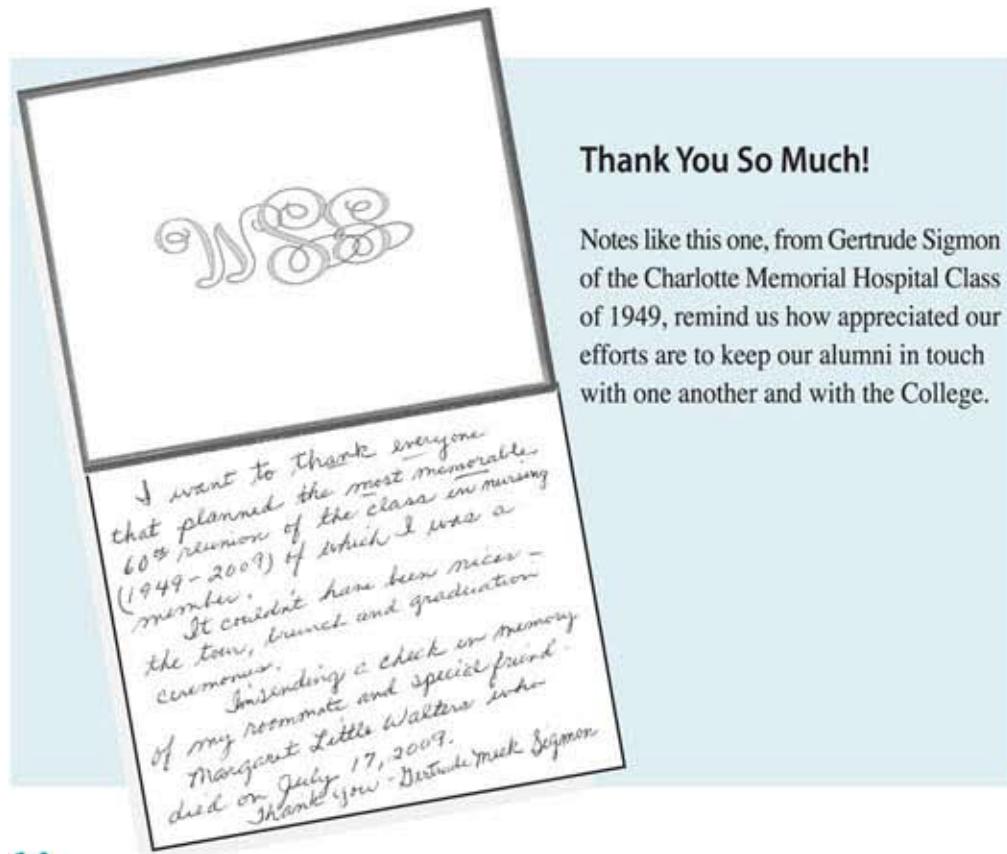


Pam Dellinger, CMC-L,
interviews Deborah Slee

CCHS Grads Impress At Interviews

....the clinical experience of your students is outstanding! One of your recent graduates has already mastered working on Telemetry and is handling two ICU/CCU patients with her preceptor, while our other new grad from a local university has not mastered even one patient! I also just hired two other CCHS graduates and am very impressed with both!

Pamela Dellinger PhD,RN, CHCR
Director Education/Professional Recruitment
Carolinas Medical Center - Lincoln



Thank You So Much!

Notes like this one, from Gertrude Sigmon of the Charlotte Memorial Hospital Class of 1949, remind us how appreciated our efforts are to keep our alumni in touch with one another and with the College.

El Wanner Receives Values in Action Award



El Wanner, SON Class of 2009, receives Values in Action award from CCHS, presented by Nancy Watkins, Student Success Coordinator

In January 2008, still early in her nursing program, Eleonore (El) Wanner volunteered for peer tutoring. Peer tutors have excelled in one or more CCHS classes and volunteer to assist other students. They are paid only with small-value gift certificates from the college for their time and effort. El subsequently tutored every semester up through her graduation last May, usually tutoring multiple students at a time. Said Nancy Watkins, Student Success Coordinator, "I have great respect for El's patience and dedication. She followed through with long-term tutoring even when that was challenging. By May, El had accumulated 75 hours of tutoring, never once accepting a gift for her generous contribution of time. She made a huge difference for many." Since graduating, El has continued to lead extended tutoring sessions, often driving to the college from her home west of Lake Wylie. And that's on top of the work and study she invests in CMC's new Critical Care Journey Program, in which she's enrolled.

In recognition of the time and effort El's given to our students, CCHS presented her with a Values in Action, a highly prized employee recognition award. Her CMC unit manager also recognized the award.

ALUMNI PATHWAYS

Please send your news via our website:
www.CarolinasCollege.edu/Alumni and Friends/Staying In Touch

Class of 1948

Wanda McDonald Pospahala (SON) has moved to Dallas, TX.

Class of 1951

In the face of losses, (1/7/09 - **Anne Graham Smith**) and (4/6/09 - **Anne Britt Meiers**), our October '09 Charlotte reunion was most warmly appreciated. Present were: **Bob and Cathy Cook Bennington**, **Janice Gibson Wright**, (both new great grandmothers of beautiful baby girls), **Jim and Janet Hunt Clapp** (moved to a retirement village; contact CCHS for their new address), **Lorraine "Smitty" Smith Pelletier** and **Jere Rufus**, **Dan and Barbara Baumgardner** **Aycock**, **Eunice "Sooky" Spires Hoffman** (Eight hours of rain on her return to FL! Her last mission trip was two weeks aboard a hospital ship in Africa; she plans one more before stopping.), **Ginger Stuart Cloer**, **Wilma "Sisey" McCrary Austin**, and **Vance Crawford**, widow of **Wilma Wright Crawford**.

We truly missed **Billie White Mitchell** (TIAs), **Mary Ann Dillard Stewart** (daughter Mary Katherine unable to transport her), **Rayma Lou Kirby Robbins** (rheumatoid arthritis), **BJ Sinclair McCartin** (flu), and **Margaret Cooper Viso** (immune system compromised with cancer treatment), **Lazelle Lombard Vielle** (in from CA caring for sister in Rockwell, NC for several months), **Louise "Mossy" Moss Ansley** (hospitalized for a heart attack, then rehab, now home again, a faulty heart valve being the culprit. Her decision - no valve surgery.) **Barbara Gardner Gray** (transitioning after the death of husband, Lawrence), **Connie Edwards Anderson** (fractured her hip in March), **Audrey Greer Bridges** (several bouts with aneurysms but has survived!), **Bob and Hazel Tuttle Borders** (at the beach), and **Doris Everleigh Taylor**.

Babs Campbell Johnston looks forward to **Smitty Pelletier's** visit. **Peggy Harris Swinson** is in Raleigh with son, Craig for the family celebration of her 80th birthday. She is plagued with short-term memory problems. **George and Nancy Miller Bartlett** are still enjoying their retirement village. No word from **Colleen "Corky" Cooper Howell** or **Mary Ruth Hunsucker Fulbright**.

Class of 1952

Joyce Prince Anderson (SON) is living in San Rafael, CA, retired and loving every minute of it! Says Joyce, "I have one son, one daughter-in-law, one grandson, one granddaughter, and one grand husband to whom I've been married for 55 years!"

Helen Crawford Deal's (SON) husband recently passed away.

Class of 1956

Sarah Burns Venable (SON) is living in an "over 55" community in Pineville. She is very active in her church and community. She enjoys bowling, swimming, playing cards, and reading.

Class of 1957

Emma Jean Huffman Connor's (SON) husband passed away recently. She'd love to hear from some of her classmates. (You can call the school for her contact information.)

Class of 1958

Catherine McArthur Deese (SON) retired in October 2008 from Myers Park Internal Medicine.

Edith Poston Larsen (SON) reports that she has moved to Lincolnshire, IL after living in the same house in Wadsworth, IL for 37 years!

Linda Patton Nance (SON) - The class of 1958 gathered for the eleventh year at the home of Linda Nance in Wilmington, NC. There was much conversation and laughter as they reminisced and caught up. Linda reports, "We are busy women who volunteer in our communities and churches, and enjoy the activities that go along with having grandchildren. All have retired, but agree that we learned so much as nurses in preparation for life."

J. Faye Cloninger Bridges (SON) is the proud grandmother of 18 girls and three boys and is expecting her 22nd grandchild soon.

Class of 1960

Mary Lou Brookshire Overton (SON) retired in July 2008 after 48 years in nursing.

Class of 1961

Joyce Noles Waller (SON) officially retired in 1992. She was the principal caregiver for her husband until his death in 1997. She now cares for her 91-year old father.

Frances Abernathy West (SON) is living in Charleston, SC and would love to hear from her classmates. (You can call the college for her contact information.)

Class of 1965

Alan Crombie (SON) is retired and living in Dublin, GA. He worked at Spruce Pine Community Hospital for several years after CMC and then moved to GA to be near grandchildren.

Karol White Jones (SON) lives in Mooresville and is now retired. She enjoys traveling and visiting with her grandchildren.

Class of 1966

Barbara Gregory Gabriel (SON) is officially retired. She enjoys traveling, gardening, quilting, and spending time with her youngest grandchildren, ages 5 and 4. She would love to hear from her former classmates. (Call the college to get her contact information.)

Brenda Leatherman Hess (SON) is living in Ocean Isle Beach, NC, semi-retired, working as a CRNA at Brunswick Hospital Novant Health Systems, and loving the beach!

Class of 1967

Nancy Day Hill (SON) recently participated in the annual Dragon Boat Rowing Races at Ramsey Creek Park in Charlotte. She was part of the crew of two boats manned by breast cancer survivors. Nancy and husband Jim recently returned from a trip to England.

Donnie Spears Nations (SON) worked at CMC for 18 years as a Certified Diabetes Educator and retired from the Greenville (SC) Hospital System. She works on a contractual basis for two companies doing insulin pump and continuous glucose monitoring education.

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Linda Perkins (SON) moved to Sanford, NC, and is working for a family practice. She says it's different from what she's used to but satisfying. There are many military families in the practice and she's close to her daughter.

Carole English Seaton (SON) would love to reconnect with her classmates. (You can call the school for her contact information.)

Peggy Brazille Strawn (SON) works part-time as the nurse liaison for IntraMed Plus, a provider of home infusion therapy. She enjoys traveling and spending time with her 2-year old grandson.

Class of 1978

Susan Brunson Barrett (SOMT) is working at the Medical University of South Carolina as the Coordinator of Accreditation and Proficiency Testing and Medical Technology Student Testing.

Alice Cheek Riddle (MT) is still working part-time in microbiology for the Greenville Hospital System. She has been married for 30 years to Damon Riddle and has one married daughter, Blaire. Life is good!

Class of 1984

Sheila Wilson (SOMT) lives in Mt Airy, NC and is the northeast regional manager for Abbott Point of Care.

Class of 1992

Wendy Hartley (SON) is working on her masters in community health nursing at UNC-Charlotte.

Kenneth Kirkman (SOMT) is working with the American Red Cross as the supervisor of the frozen red cell lab. He's been there for 29 years, having started right after graduation. He reminds us that ARC had a stem cell processing lab from 1995 to 2008 in conjunction with CMC.

Sherry Lominick (SOMT) is working at Palmetto Hospital in Columbia, SC.

Class of 1993

Lynda Disher Adair (SON) is a nursing supervisor at a large state prison in Florida. She is involved in many community activities and First Responding.

Class of 1995

Kelia Gray Keeling (SOMT) got married on May 16, 2009. She works for CHS in the information systems department.

Judy Rochelle (SON) a Documentation Specialist with CHS' Compliance Documentation Improvement Program in Clinical Care Management received certification in compliance documentation from the Association of Compliance.

Class of 1996

Kristina Andronica (SON) graduated with an MSN in nurse anesthesia from UNC-Greensboro in May, 2009.

Mary Knollmeyer Brennan (SON) became a grandmother in May 2009 to Kenan Elise Knollmeyer.

Kristina Earle (SON) graduated with an MSN in nurse anesthesia from UNCC/CMC in May.

Joy Kieffer-Phillips (SOST) received her PhD in adult education.

Melissa Williams (SON) has been accepted to UNC-Greensboro's Nurse Practitioner's Program and was recognized as one of NC's Great 100 Nurses.

Victoria "Vickie" Wilson (SOST) works at W Stanly Imaging at Stanly Regional Hospital.

Class of 1997

Natalie Pettibone Bellini (SON) visited Charlotte from NY to present at a conference sponsored by Animas, a division of Johnson & Johnson. Natalie, a certified diabetes educator, serves Animas as its Director of the Teen Programming for Children with Diabetes. Natalie also lives with Type I diabetes. Says Natalie, "I have now spoken in several countries outside the US: Dubai and Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates, London, England, Toronto, and Vancouver! It will be Sydney and Paris in 2011!" Her presentation was titled "Navigating Adolescence and Diabetes - A Talk for Parents of Teens."

Tonya George Cornwell (SON) is working for public health services on the Catawba Indian Reservation.

Class of 1998

Carrie Knight Belk (RT) and husband welcomed their second son, Colin Marshall Belk, on April 27, 2009.

Amy Rorie (SON) married Rodney Hatley on March 28, 2009 and is currently the assistant nurse manager on 10 Tower at CMC-Main.

Class of 1999

Billy Buckingham (SON) is in San Diego, CA working as a traveling nurse. Says Billy, "San Diego is wonderful! I love the weather though it is strange to not have any rain for such a long time. The lack of humidity more than makes up for not having that 'free' car wash!"

Rodney Currin (SON) received his BSN from UNCC in August.

Terri Sanchez (SON) is in her final year of grad school at UNC-Charlotte to become a family nurse practitioner. She works PRN at CMC-Main in the 8T newborn nursery. She and her husband will soon be "empty nesters" as their youngest daughter joins her brother at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Ryan Parthemore Shonce (SON) recently married and is working as a family nurse practitioner in CMC's pediatric GI Specialty Center.

Class of 2001

Cerese Blanton Feagans (SON) received her BSN from Winston-Salem State University in May.

Tamara Sanders (SOST) works at CMC-University and passed her CT registry exam in July.

Heather Clippard Stroupe (SOST) has been working at Gaston Memorial Hospital as a CT Tech for over three years and loves it. She and her husband of four years bought their first home two years ago and are planning to start a family, soon.

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Sunny Walls (SOST) has worked at OrthoCarolina since graduation.

Class of 2002

Julie Klaffer Faulkenberry (SON) gave birth to her third boy in Nov. of 2008.

Donna Shayeghi Hassen (SON) is married with two children. She works at Piedmont Medical Center in the level 2 nursery.

Christina Hyatt Ramsey (SON) has remarried and now has two children, ages 11 and 2. She is a staff nurse in the neonatal progressive care nursery at CMC and is working on certification.

Class of 2003

James Hermann (SON) and his wife welcomed their 3rd son, Carter, who was born on Oct. 11, 2009. James is in the UNCC/CMC CRNA program and will graduate in December 2010.

Class of 2004

Cindy Austin (SOST) has completed her AAS degree in Nursing from Foothills Nursing Consortium and works as an RN/CST for an oral/maxillofacial surgeon.

Charlotte Byrne (SON) gave birth to a boy, James, in June of 2008.

Alexis Lorenzin (EMS) has moved to Durham, NC.

Crystal Mapes (SON) is an ER nurse at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences; one of only a handful of level I trauma centers in the state. Crystal says, "Arkansas just passed trauma center reform so it is a very exciting time in our state."

Mandy Mead (SOMT) works for Up-To-Date, Inc, an online clinical resource (currently available at CHS) and has been promoted to Regional Client Trainer for the southeast region.

Russell Ott (SON) received a "CHS Good Catch" award after noticing a medication error on a patient's discharge form. Great catch Russell!

Allison Swaim (SON) was promoted to assistant nurse manager of the pediatric progressive care unit of Levine Children's Hospital.

Heather Winecoff Todd (SOMT) was awarded the Carolinas Laboratory Network Supervisor of the Year for 2008. Heather is supervisor of Molecular Pathology at CMC-Mercy.

Class of 2005

Rebecca Stevenson Askins (SOST) has moved to Bremerton, WA. Rebecca's husband is in the Navy.

Elizabeth Bickell (SOST) is in the physician's assistant program at Touro College in NY.

Laura Capranica (SON) has transferred to CMC-Lincoln and loves being back in direct patient care!

Sunny DiLando (SOST) received her bachelor's in healthcare administration in August 2008.

Verona Ferguson (SOST) married Scott Jordan in 2009.

Michelle Fritz (SOMT) moved to Raleigh, NC.

Tenecia Jackson (SON) has moved to Austin, TX and is working on an orthopedic unit with some med/surg overflow. She is looking forward to going on the CCHS alumni trip to Italy in January 2010.

Allison Paula (SON) is working as an ER nurse and part time as a paramedic.

Alan Tobias (SON) received a "CHS Good Catch" award for noticing a medication error. Said Alan, "our new Cerner computerized system would have caught the error at the bedside, but it pays to personally verify every medication!"

Class of 2006

Ryan Blanton (SOMT) moved to Washington, DC and worked at Washington Hospital Center and George Washington University Hospital. In May, he moved to Winston-Salem and is working in the infection control department at Baptist Hospital.

Janet Bowen (SORT) is the practice manager at MMG SouthPark - Oncology.

Cassandra Duren (SON) is pursuing a master's in family nurse practitioner through Graceland University, Missouri. She was recently accepted into Sigma Theta Tau, the International Honor Society of Nursing.

Wendy Jackson (SOMT) and husband Neil welcomed their first child, Carson Boyd Gardner, on May 27th.

Margaret Langel (SON) married Brian Patoney, moved to Greeneville, NC, and is working at Pitt Co. Memorial Hospital.

Sherena Page Samuel (SON) and her husband just purchased their first home. Now her Yorkie, Kobe, has a backyard to play in.

Class of 2007

Erica Beldegren (SOMT) graduated from nursing school at Jacksonville University in September. She hopes to find a job at CMC.

Kariena Bernesser (EMS) is working with search and rescue dogs and hoping to get her certification in May of 2009. Husband **Thomas (EMS)** is working toward becoming a fireman.

Kelly Black (SON) is working at Carolinas Heart Institute.

Ella Chen (SOMT) has been accepted to Polytechnic Institute of NYU in the Biomolecular Science Program and is still enjoying the big city of New York.

Yvette Holloway (SOMT) moved to Grand Junction, CO in September to work for the Veteran's Administration there.

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Amy Vance Hewitt Johnson (SON) is living on a houseboat in Charleston Harbor. She works in interventional radiology at the Medical University of South Carolina.

Katie Jonas Leonhardt's (SON) husband is in Iraq.

Thomas Nagel (EMS) and wife recently welcomed a new baby.

Christina Ragusin (SOST) is working at Metrolina Plastic Surgery.

Caroline Nguyen Trinh (SOMT) got married shortly after graduation and has now passed her certification exam for Molecular Pathology.

Class of 2008

Holly Whitehurst Bean (SON) got married in 2008.

Class of 2009

Sherene Banawan (SOMT) has passed her certification exam for Molecular Pathology.

LaDonna Belcher (SOMT) married Roger Johnson on September 19th. LaDonna works in the Core Lab/Chemistry at CMC-Main.

Jennifer Buell (SON) has relocated to Las Vegas, NV and is working at a plasma donation center as a donor processor. She should have her NV license soon and can move into the job of medical supervisor at the center. She and son Cody are loving their new life in Vegas!

Nikki Cracknell (SON) is working for Boston Scientific as a clinical specialist in the cardiac rhythm management division. She assists cardiologists and electrophysiologists with placement of pacemakers, internal defibrillators, and resynchronization devices. She programs these devices during procedures, checks up on the devices after placement, and educates patients regarding their devices. Her previous MS degree and medical sales experience, coupled with her new RN title, made her a perfect candidate for this wonderful opportunity.

Melissa Dunlap (SOMT) married Stephen Jackson on September 27th. Melissa works in Blood Bank at CMC-Main.

Jennifer Robinson Haywood (SON) has married and works for Frye Regional Medical Center in Hickory, NC.

Bethany Atkins Holder (SOMT), husband Wilson, and 5 month old daughter Sara Beth have moved to Hooker, OK where Wilson will be working as a systems engineer for Tri-County Electric.

Chris Kincaid (SOMT) was married on Sept 5 and works in the CMC Hematology Department.

Amy Wile (SON) moved to Tacoma, WA, and is working as the IVF/REI Nurse Coordinator at Madigan Army Medical Center. Amy beat out over 100 other applicants for the position, and though she'll retain civilian status, is looking forward to working closely with military families, since her father was an Air Force physician.

Chrisey Xiong (SOMT) has moved to St. Paul, MN and is working for Allina Health Care System at Abbott Northwestern Hospital, the largest not-for-profit hospital in the twin cities.

I miss seeing all of you and hearing the laughter in the halls at CCHS! That school and everyone in it is why I have the confidence I do. THANK YOU!!!! I miss all of you and can't wait until you visit Las Vegas.
 - Jennifer Buell, SON Class of 2009

From a note to Betty Anderson, Program Director of Clinical Laboratory Sciences:

I've worked for several labs now, in North Carolina and Washington, DC. The lab at CMC is by far the best. The people at CMC were the most qualified and knowledgeable; really top-notch! Since so many were trained at the CCHS Medical Technology Program, that is a direct reflection on the talented teachers and laboratory professionals. I could not have received a better training than I got at CCHS; you should feel proud.
 - Ryan Blanton, SOMT, Class of 2006

In a note to Lucy Davison, Interim Director of Radiologic Technology:
Thank you for such extensive training while in school. It has helped me tremendously throughout the past year. It has made such a difference in my first job, knowing that I had as much training as I possibly could get in two years. You guys gave me confidence I didn't know I had. I thank you for that.
 - Alisha Jones Borchardt, SORT, Class of 2008

As I think back on my days at CCHS and how well prepared I was for my nursing career, there are so many to thank. The faculty were exceptional. Linda Horton helped me a lot with personal problems; if it wasn't for her and Sue Thornton I most likely wouldn't have finished nursing school. Sue was by far the most important person in my life at CCHS. She always made time for me, and probably for everybody else too. She is absolutely terrific.
 - Jason Franklin, SON, Class of 2000



We Love Your Testimonials

... My experience with CCHS has been positive from beginning to end. The NCLEX was a breeze thanks to the excellent prep work all the instructors did during my two years. I'm so excited about starting my new position. I won't lie...it's all a little overwhelming, but I'm looking forward to seeing what I can accomplish in the world of nursing. I will definitely stay in touch.

-- Patti Reese, SON Class of 2009

As our class met, we agreed we learned so much as nurses that prepared us for life! ... I received my copy of Connections and what an uplifting and informative issue that was! I'm so proud of all that has been accomplished and happy to claim that institution as my own. Congratulations to all.
 - Linda Patton Nance, SON, Class of 1958

I just had a friend in CMC for hip replacement and met 3 RN's who graduated from CCHS. They were all very caring and helpful and reinforced my faith in your amazing 2 year program!

-- Janice Wright, SON Class of 1951

Believe me, no one believes in CCHS grads more than I do! I have seen the fruits of CCHS not only in me, but in ALL of the wonderful nurses we have gained from your school! I will be honest with you, some of our best nurses are CCHS grads.

-- Toni Granados, RNC NIC, SON Class of 1999

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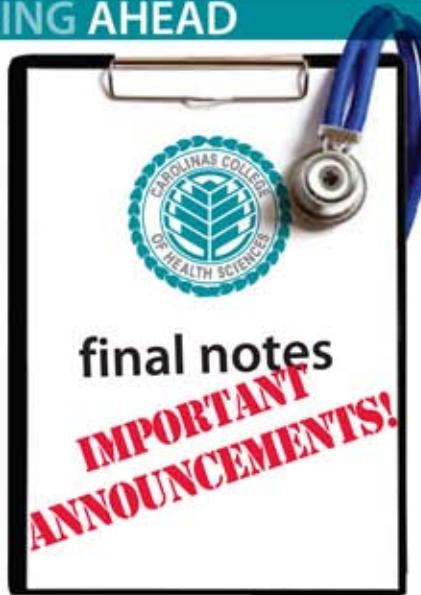
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New scholarship available to residents of Gaston, Cleveland or Lincoln County who are pursuing an MSN, NP, or PA degree is the Dr. Grover White Scholarship. Contact Ellen.Sheppard@CarolinasCollege.edu for an application if you qualify. Deadline is March 2, 2010.

Coming in 2010: Electronically request a transcript, report address changes, and connect with classmates via the new online CCHS alumni database! You'll receive email instructions in early 2010 if CCHS has your contact info. Send your email address to Pat.Lewis@CarolinasCollege.edu along with your full name and graduation year.

IMPORTANT DATES

Want to stay connected with what it's like to be a CCHS student today? Request your free e-subscription to the college's monthly student newsletter: Ellen.Sheppard@CarolinasCollege.edu.

Help the alumni association honor graduating students on March 4, 2010, 3 pm - 4:30 pm at the college. Contact Pat.Lewis@CarolinasCollege.edu to volunteer.

Did you graduate from Charlotte Memorial in 1950 or 1960? CCHS wants to celebrate YOUR 50th or 60th anniversary in grand style on May 7 and 8th! Mark your calendar now to join the festivities. Watch your mail for specifics by mid-January.

Alumni Association Meeting Dates for 2010:

February 23
May 25
August 31
November 16

All meetings are at the College at 6:30 p.m.

To receive a personal reminder of each meeting, email Pat.Lewis@CarolinasCollege.edu.

Homecoming (celebrated at 5-year intervals) will be fall of 2010. Watch for specifics in the spring newsletter.