



CONNECTIONS

Spring 2014

A publication for alumni and friends of Carolinas College of Health Sciences
part of Carolinas HealthCare System



President's NOTE

Dear CCHS Alumni,

This issue of *Connections* is full of exciting news about your alma mater, as well as glimpses of campus life. These are exciting times at the college, and I invite you to come by anytime – I'd love to show you all that's changed, and all that's remained the same. But I'm devoting my space this month not to the college, but to you, our gracious and generous alumni.

You already know that gifts from grateful alumni and their loving family and friends fuel many CCHS scholarships, sponsorships and student opportunities. The college and its student recipients couldn't be more grateful. Your gifts truly make a difference.



Ellen Sheppard, EdD

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But did you know that alumni give back in so many other ways as well? Many of you reading this have said to a human resources recruiter, "I only want to interview CCHS graduates." Thank you. Many alums have called to say, "We've changed vendors and can no longer use this IV tubing, can you?" Whatever it is, we probably can! Thank you. Many of you have called the college when you needed a student to babysit, housesit or care for an aging parent at home. Thank you for remembering how much those part-time jobs mean to students. As you downsized, some of you donated your much loved yearbook, uniform, pin and memorabilia. Thank you! We'll treasure and care for them. Recently the longtime partner of 1948 alumnus, Kay Revel, donated Kay's old microscope. Thank you, Eve, we'll display it proudly. One alumnus purchases day-old cupcakes from a neighborhood bakery, freezes them and brings them in occasionally as a treat for students and staff. Thanks, Janice.

Still more alumni give of their time: representing CCHS at presidential inaugurations or other official functions, speaking to student organizations, providing interview tips, baking or serving snacks to graduating senior students, attending alumni meetings, serving on a college committee. Thank you. Most recently, 50 "young alumni" volunteered for a brand new program in which they'll be matched with a current student to provide career advice, encouragement and moral support. Thank you. We weren't sure the program would fly. Now we know it will!

People often ask, "What's the favorite part of your job?" There are three:

- Greeting eager, nervous new students
- Shaking the hand of each now-confident graduate at commencement
- Seeing alumni return, either to visit or to "pay it forward" to the next generation

Want to be involved with CCHS but not sure how? Call me. There are many ways and each makes a real difference. Thank you, all of you, for being my favorite part of the best job in the world!

With warmest regards,

Ellen Sheppard
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704-355-5316

ON THE COVER

Jodie Ramsey, a December 2012 CCHS graduate, is in her dream job: Neonatal Progressive Care Nursery at Levine Children's Hospital. That dream was born eight years ago during three months of daily visits to her premature twin girls at Carolinas Medical Center. Her sister-in-law, a Rad Tech alumnus, told her about CCHS and she fell in love with "the small class size, the comfortable environment where you feel connected to your school and classmates." She credits her success to her husband and family. "My goal of becoming a neonatal nurse became their goal; they made my load lighter."

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Connections is a publication of Carolinas College of Health Sciences, part of Carolinas HealthCare System.

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Nursing

The year 2014 will be one of new and exciting challenges for the School of Nursing. First, the nursing faculty have been

working hard to integrate the 2010 National League for Nursing (NLN) Core Competencies for Nursing Education into the nursing curriculum. Curriculum revision is challenging but also an exhilarating process for the faculty as we critically evaluate the current curriculum and what needs to be changed to be in compliance with the new NLN competencies. At the same time, we strive to maintain the standard of excellence that has



Debbie Blackwell

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allowed Carolinas College of Health Sciences' School of Nursing to achieve phenomenal program outcomes. By the time you receive this publication, the nursing program will have submitted the curriculum substantive changes to the North Carolina Board of Nursing and Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing for approval. The proposed implementation, if the revisions are approved, is fall of 2014.

The second challenge for the School of Nursing comes with a bittersweet announcement. Dr. Sherri Marlow, associate dean for the School of Nursing since 2006, left the position at the end of December. She is still very much a part of Carolinas HealthCare System but is now a full-time nursing faculty member at Cabarrus College of Health Sciences in the online RN-BSN program. The College wishes Sherri much happiness and success as she

begins this new chapter in her career as a nurse educator.

Patricia (Trish) Campbell, RN, MSN, adult health nursing faculty, has been appointed as the interim associate dean for the School

of Nursing until a permanent associate dean is on boarded. A college interview team has been formed and the search process has begun to fill this very important position. We are very hopeful to have a new associate dean in place by the end of the spring semester.

As you can see, 2014 will be a year filled with change but much promise for the School of Nursing. I wish each of you a healthy and successful year.



Trish Campbell

Radiologic Technology

The faculty of Carolinas College of Health Sciences' radiologic technology program are overjoyed with the final results of the Class of 2013's

certification examination! When the results of the 2013 ARRT (American Registry of Radiologic Technologists) examination for all radiography examinees were released:

- Carolinas College's radiologic technology graduates, once again, achieved a 100 percent first-attempt



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pass rate. CCHS graduates have a 100 percent pass rate for 28 of the past 29 years. The national 2013 first-attempt pass rate was 89.6 percent.

- CCHS radiologic technology graduates from the May 2013 class achieved a group scaled score of 88.6 percent. The national mean score was 84.1 percent.
- Seven of our 14 graduates scored in the top 2 percent ranking of all 2013 radiography examinees.
- Of the 14 graduates in the Class of 2013, two are continuing their formal education as students in radiation therapy and of the remaining 12 graduates, 11 are employed in radiography.

In preparation for the May 2014 graduation, Level 2 radiologic technology students are now scheduling their dates for the May ARRT examination. CCHS is proud and

confident that they will do very well on the exam. Sixteen Level I students made it through the first five months of the program and are progressing quite well on their path to becoming "senior students."

These successes are largely due to the dedicated, passionate and professional faculty members of the program. Lucy Davison, Cathey Miller, Jodie Huffstetler and I are so grateful for the professional and personal support received from radiology colleagues at the various Carolinas HealthCare System clinical education sites, and the alumni of the CCHS radiologic technology program. Alumni members have been so very supportive with monetary contributions, encouragement and mentorship. We thank all of you and want you to share in the successes this past year has brought to the program. Our heartfelt gratitude to all of our alumni colleagues.

Radiation Therapy

The radiation therapy faculty would like to congratulate the class of 2013 on their performance on the ARRT (American Registry of Radiologic Technologists)



Lee Braswell

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National Certification Exam. All graduates passed the exam on their first attempt with an average score of 83 percent. Your hard work paid off!

In program news, the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology completed its accreditation review and provided the radiation therapy program with its initial accreditation award in August of 2013. The program completed the review with no recommendations, suggestions or citations. Thanks to all of the program faculty and clinical partners for such a stellar review.

And finally, in partnership with Levine Cancer Institute, the radiation therapy program at Carolinas College hosted its first annual student discovery event. The event provided individuals interested in radiation oncology careers the opportunity to hear from those in the profession and to tour our state-of-the-art facility at the Levine Cancer Institute. Vicki Reich, Levine Cancer Institute administrator; Dr. Michael Haake, radiation oncologist; Jonathan Jackson, radiation therapist; and Dr. Hampton Hopkins, dean of student affairs; provided presentations for the event. Gail Satterfield, department administrator, and several of her staff members provided support for the tours. Thanks to everyone who provided support for the event. It was a successful beginning for our annual outreach event.

Surgical Technology

It's that time of year again! Spring is approaching and graduation is on the horizon.

Nine surgical technology students are anticipating graduation on May 2 and are completing coursework in neuro, cardiothoracic, vascular, plastic, and ear, nose and throat surgery. This is also the busiest semester for students as they prepare for the national certification exam, complete clinical case requirements in five different specialties and begin the job application process. And if that's not enough, students have a research paper and presentation due in April. Whew!

Prepare for the Certification Exam:

Even though you may have completed your education years ago, it's never too late to sit for and successfully complete the national certification exam. To those of you who have taken, and maintained your certification, kudos! Remember, the Association for Surgical Technologists (AST) provides three free CEUs each year to help you reach 60 credits in four years.

CCHS students are required to purchase Pearson's Surgical Technology Exam Review (2012) by Emily H. Boegli and Kathy LaRue in preparation for the national certification exam. Students love this study guide because it provides an overview of each topic as well as Q and A at the end of each chapter. This guide is also helpful if you have worked in one particular specialty and need to review concepts in other areas. The AST also has a study guide that is helpful if you desire a study guide with a Q and A only format. You can access this guide online at ast.org.



Kali Simien

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Preceptors Rock: To those alumni who are preceptors at clinical sites, Gardenia and I thank you for the countless hours of mentoring. You truly make a difference in the quality of education the students receive and ultimately the future of your profession.

Speaking of education, check out the Grads on the Go segment on alumnus Kelly Jones-Phillips (ST '11). CCHS is proud of her accomplishments and wishes her well in her professional endeavors.

Clinical Laboratory Sciences

We're growing! Carolinas College has three programs in the School of Clinical Laboratory Sciences. In December 2013, the first group



Kelly Shirley

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of histotechnologists graduated. The histotechnology program (HTL) accepts four students each January for the one-year post-bachelor's program. As a complement to the MLS (medical laboratory science) program which prepares students to diagnose health and disease through analysis of blood and body fluids, Histotechnologists are lab scientists who prepare tissue for the purpose of diagnosing health and disease.

Also in 2013, the newly developed online specialist in blood bank technology and transfusion medicine (SBBT/TM) program accepted its first cadre of students. This one-year program is specifically designed for lab scientists working in blood donor centers and/or transfusion services who want to advance their blood bank knowledge and careers.

Continued on page 7

It is an honor to serve as your president!

What an exciting year it's been for the Alumni Association. New initiatives, interesting speakers at our meetings and a very successful phone-a-thon are just a few of the highlights of the past year. But, I do believe the best is yet to come – and that 2014 will be our best year ever – and I want to invite you to be a part of it.

The Alumni Association is here for you. CCHS has a long history of graduating excellent healthcare professionals, dating back to the 1940s. We have really evolved over the years and offer a variety of resources and activities for alumni from all programs to participate in and take advantage of. The wisdom and expertise of those who have gone before you can be a valuable resource in your own journey as a member of the healthcare team. There are many ways for you to stay connected with your alumni association:

Update Your Contact Information

First and most important, keep your contact information up to date. We'd like to be able to send you information concerning activities and opportunities happening within the association.

Meetings

Alumni association meetings are held quarterly in February, May, August and November at the college. The meetings are a fun way to catch up with classmates, meet other alumni, learn about what's happening at the college and learn something new from interesting guest speakers. Also, at the May, August and November meetings, we invite alumni to participate in one of the community service projects that the Association supports each year. Some of the projects include collecting donations for the Levine Children's Hospital Toy Chest, Classroom Central's School Tools Campaign, and stuffing stockings for the Salvation Army Christmas Bureau. The next meeting is May 27 at 6:30 p.m. at CCHS – join us!

Young Alumni Council

We have a new initiative within the Association called the Young Alumni Council. The term "young alumni" refers to anyone who has graduated within the past ten years. This group addresses the needs of more recent grads through programs and events that focus on professional development, educational advancement, and mentorship opportunities with CCHS students. See page eight for more info on this exciting initiative.

Graduation in May

On May 2, we will honor Charlotte Memorial Hospital alumni that graduated in 1944, 1954 and 1964. We look forward to celebrating the 50, 60 and 70 year reunions of these graduates and have events planned throughout that weekend to honor them.



Patty McCrary, RT '76
Patricia.McCrary@CarolinasHealthCare.org

Our wonderful, hardworking alumni coordinator, Ruthie Mihal, can provide you with more information about these and other events happening this year – give her a call, or shoot her an email: 704-609-1542 or Ruthie.Mihal@CarolinasHealthCare.org. Also, for a complete list of upcoming events see page 35.

Again, let me say what an honor it is to serve as your president. I hope to see you soon at an alumni event. Remember, the Alumni Association is here for YOU! Stay Connected!

Alumni Association Officers

President
Patty McCrary (RT '76)

President Elect
Will Borders (MLS '06)

Past President
Lee Abbott (NUR '63)

Secretary
Nancy Hill (NUR '67)

Treasurer
Peggy Cherry (NUR '62)

Nominating Committee
Mary Faye Proctor (NUR '56)

Young Alumni Council Chair
Jason McLawhorn (NUR '11)



Watch for Information...

Homecoming 2015!

Stay tuned for more details on this spectacular event. It only comes around once every five years!



Program News continued



Check out the new programs
on the college's website:
CarolinasCollege.edu

Another change implemented in 2013, the medical laboratory science program graduated three times – January, August, and for the first time, December. If you are a past January graduate you may remember coming back after the December holiday break to take a blood bank final exam and the program comprehensive. Faculty shifted the course schedule to allow January students to complete the program and take the certification exam in time to enjoy the holiday season. This also allows them to enter the workforce earlier. All 2013 MLS graduates passed the ASCP (American Society for Clinical Pathology) National Certification Exam and received offers of employment before or shortly after graduation. Eleven of the 2013 graduates are working in the laboratories of Carolinas HealthCare System.

On a sad note, the MLS program at Wake Forest Baptist Health is closing its doors. This is a loss for our profession. According to NAACLS (National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences), over 40 percent of the NAACLS accredited medical laboratory science/medical technology programs have closed, resulting in approximately 50 percent fewer graduates. Anytime a voice for our profession falls silent it should concern us all. The faculty and students of the MLS and HTL programs are doing their part: in 2013 faculty and students were involved in numerous community events promoting the college and the lab science programs. Thank you to all the alumni who are involved in promoting the profession.

Remember to make time for your family and take time for yourself. Keep in touch!

Grateful Parent Recognizes CCHS Student's Caring Attitude

Caring. Some say it's an overused word. But at Carolinas College it's used a lot – intentionally. In fact, it's one of the college's four core values. Students learn early in their studies that caring and compassion rank right up there with knowledge and skill when it comes to healthcare. So college faculty and staff beamed with pride upon learning that one of the very first posts to Carolinas Medical Center's new Share Your Story site for patients was about a CCHS student. The mom of a patient at Levine Children's Hospital had this to say. **NOTE:** Patient and student names removed for privacy

The Story

"My son was admitted for what was ultimately diagnosed as Kawasaki's disease. Throughout his time he was treated with the utmost loving care from his nurses, doctors and technicians. But there was one outstanding nurse that made his stay fun. After enduring two full days of poking, prodding, looking and listening, a CCHS student nurse was assigned to him. After introducing himself, he proceeded to explain everything that he was going to do and then asked permission to do it. When he was about to listen to my son's heart, the student asked if he had ever heard what they were listening to. When he replied no, the student put the stethoscope in my son's ears and the other end to his chest and let him listen. The wide-eyed response, 'Wow - that's so cool! I never knew that's what it sounded like.'

The student connected with a scared young boy and brought him firsthand into his care. After that, the two of them were fist-bumping and kidding around every time he came into the room. From a parent's standpoint, those who take that extra little moment to connect with my child make the entire ordeal much easier to handle. My son's been out of the hospital five days now and when asked about his time there, he talks about that student."



Left to right: Emily Spencer (NUR '13), Anna Hunter (NUR '13), Erika Hallman (NUR '13), Nicole Talley (NUR '13), Lesly Stroup (NUR '13)

Young Alumni Council **NEWS**

The CCHS Alumni Association's new Young Alumni Council is off to a great start. This group was created last year to address the needs of recent grads through programs that focus on professional development, educational advancement and opportunities to mentor current CCHS students. So far, the Council has held two professional networking events and started its student mentoring program – and the response to all has been fantastic.

The inaugural event was held on May 16, 2013, at the new Levine Cancer Institute. Over 50 alumni enjoyed a networking reception, tours of Levine Cancer Institute and the opportunity to learn about careers in oncology. Guest speakers included Dr. Derek Raghavan, president of Levine Cancer Institute, Dr. Ellen Sheppard, president of Carolinas College of Health Sciences, and Lisa Barber, manager of the Blumenthal Infusion Center at Levine Cancer Institute.

The second event was held on January 22, 2014, at Dilworth Neighborhood Grille and focused on the topic of professional development. The evening started with a networking reception followed by a panel discussion with some of Carolinas HealthCare System's top leaders sharing their career insight and advice. What a great opportunity for the 60+ alumni in attendance to listen to Martha Whitecotton, senior vice president, Behavioral Health Services; Phyllis Wingate, division president, Northern Group; and Dennis Taylor, associate vice president, Center for Advanced Practice, as they talked about their career journeys.

The new mentoring program was introduced soon after the start of the spring term, and already the interest from both mentors and students has been amazing. The program pairs interested second-year, second-semester or intermediate students with a Young Alumnus from their same program. The goal is to provide students with a personal resource in their professional field.

The Alumni Association plans to continue to sponsor these valuable events and encourages all local Young Alumni to participate!



For more information on the Young Alumni Council, visit: CarolinasHealthCare.org/CCHS-Alumni-Association or contact Ruthie Mihal at Ruthie.Mihal@CarolinasHealthCare.org.

NOTE: The term Young Alumni refers to anyone who has graduated within the past 10 years, regardless of age.

CCHS TESTIMONIALS

What Nursing is All About

This story is told by Judy Cabiness Perrell (NUR '62) and is but one of many insights she gained as she accompanied her dear husband "Pepper" on his final journey in a courageous battle with cancer.

... it was around midnight before the room at Carolinas Medical Center was ready and close to 1 a.m. when we got there. I had been with him 24/7 for the week and was weary. The room had a straight chair. Not long after he was settled and I was in my chair this sweet-faced nurse came in and said, 'Oh no, this won't work, I will be right back.' In a few minutes she brought in a recliner. Exhausted, I turned onto my side and fell asleep. Sometime, not long after I was asleep, gentle hands laid a warm blanket over me, tucked it in and whispered 'goodnight.' I will never forget that; that is what nursing is all about.

Hard Working Students

This testimonial was relayed to faculty member, Mary Griffin, PhD, RN, CNE, about the students at CCHS.

As I was making student assignments today, the charge nurse and secretary asked if my ears were burning last week. Another school of nursing was on 5T late in the week and their students were doing nothing – just sitting around in a group at the end of the hall. They both said, "Mary would be having a fit if she saw those students," and I would have! They then went on to say how hard our students worked when on the unit and how better prepared CCHS students were upon graduation; the charge nurse said she much preferred orienting our new grads versus students from other schools. Once again, CCHS rules!



Giving Back, While Paying It Forward

Whether it's been months, years or decades since you attended Carolinas College or Charlotte Memorial Hospital – we know your training was exceptional.

The Annual Fund and Phone-a-thon Campaign supports that tradition of educational excellence. Your tax-deductible gift ensures that CCHS students continue to benefit from scholarships, small classes, superior faculty and a state-of-the-art simulation lab – things tuition alone cannot cover.

Please consider investing in our students and in the future of healthcare. The 2014 Phone-a-thon will be April 7, 8 and 9. Our students are looking forward to talking with you – but if you prefer to make a gift now, we will remove your name from the calling list. Gifts can be made by completing the enclosed contribution envelope or making a secure online gift.



Online Instructions:

1. Go to: GiveCarolinas.org.
2. Click on the Donate Now banner at top left of page.
3. Select Research and Education.
4. Select CCHS Advancement Fund from the pull-down menu.

Kelly Shirley, director, School of Clinical Laboratory Sciences said, "While working with Melissa Jackson, MLS faculty, to develop a new online specialist in blood bank and transfusion medicine program, I ran across an AABB (formerly the American Association of Blood Banks) publication with **Wade Atkins** as a co-author. AABB is an international organization whose mission is to advance the practice and standards of transfusion medicine and cellular therapies to optimize patient and donor care and safety. Wade Atkins is a graduate from our medical technology program. How cool is that – time to reconnect."

Wade Atkins (MT '88), grew up in Mt. Airy, NC, and graduated from Pfeifer University in 1987 with a Bachelor of Science in Biology. His college advisor, knowing Wade's great interest in medicine, love for laboratory sciences and need to start earning money, suggested the medical technology program at Charlotte Memorial Hospital (now the medical laboratory science program at Carolinas College of Health Sciences) as a great way to combine all his interests. Wade applied to the program and indicated he would not stop until he achieved his goal of becoming a medical technologist. Wade graduated from CCHS' medical technology program in August 1988 and has been a Grad-on-the-Go ever since.

Wade's first position as a medical technologist was in Charlotte Memorial Hospital's (now Carolinas Medical Center) chemistry department. However, Wade quickly realized his passion for blood bank and when a position in the blood bank lab at Carolinas Medical Center opened, his journey into the world of blood bank and transfusion medicine began.

While working as the assistant blood bank supervisor at Maryland General Hospital in Baltimore, MD, Wade became nationally certified as a specialist in blood banking by passing the grueling American Society of Clinical Pathologists SBB exam. "That credential has opened many, many doors," said Wade. He went on to earn his Master of Science degree in Health Care Administration at the University of Maryland University College and he is also a certified quality auditor. In 1998, he left the hospital side of blood banking and joined the Metropolitan Washington Blood Bank as a quality assurance specialist for Virginia Blood Services.

"A whole new world of quality assurance opened for me and the SBB credential set me apart from other candidates."

Wade is currently employed as a quality assurance specialist in the Department of Transfusion Medicine at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, MD. This position has opened many opportunities for him to actively participate in AABB committees and other organizations. He is currently involved in writing a guidance document published by WHO (World Health Organization) on Quality Assurance for Blood Establishments. "I feel strongly that those of us lucky enough to experience training programs like the medical laboratory science program or the new specialist in blood banking program at Carolinas College have a duty to our fellow man to pass that knowledge on to others. The WHO document is a vehicle to take what I learned in the US and share it with other blood bankers around the world who are also on a mission to provide safe and life sustaining blood to their fellow man. I am also on a mission to ensure that all other healthcare



Wade Atkins
Medical Technology '88

providers know the value of well-trained medical laboratory scientists and what they bring to the medical profession. The world needs more well trained MLS professionals like those produced from the CCHS MLS and SBB program." Wade hopes to be in a position that influences the Office of the Secretary of Health to understand the struggles of clinical laboratories.

Wade has been married for 23 years to "the very lovely and extremely supportive Lisa Eriksen Atkins." They have two children Robert (19) and Susan (16) and a "corgi terrier mutt that thinks he is one of the kids." Wade is a nationally certified stroke and turn and starter for US Swimming, and he is a starter at invitational swim meets with Olympic gold medalists. He also officiates at summer league, club, high school and college meets.

Wade is spot on when he says there is no greater reward than knowing that the skills of an MT can directly impact the lives of another human. Each transfused blood component gives recipients another hour, another day, another week and even longer for them to do what is important in their lives. Who knows, we may one day see Wade fulfill his dream of being The Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Thank you Wade for your many contributions to the laboratory profession.

Grads on the GO! Continued

Kelly Jones-Phillips knew she wanted to work in healthcare ever since high school. She was thinking along the lines of medical school back then because she had never heard of a surgical tech or a PA (physician's assistant). After graduating from Wofford College with a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry, Kelly volunteered at a hospital in Ecuador for nine weeks. She was able to help out in the operating room and fell in love with surgery! When she returned to the states, she immediately began researching online for surgical programs. Her first thought was to apply to a physician's assistant program, but decided to complete the surgical technology program at CCHS and establish a foundation in healthcare. She believed that her experiences in this capacity would enhance her surgical skills and help her develop into a well-rounded PA in the future.



Kelly Jones-Phillips

Surgical Technology '11

Kelly shared her first experience in the operating room at Carolinas Medical Center:

"I remember being so scared because it was such an unknown situation for me. I didn't know what to expect from the nurses, surgeons or surgical technologists. I honestly don't remember what my first case was, but I do remember the circulating nurses and the surgical technologists being so welcoming and helpful. The staff were used to having students and seemed to enjoy teaching us. Many of the surgical technologists graduated from CCHS, so it's kind of like family. I also remember feeling very prepared. The basic skills lab during the first month of the program was thorough and gave us a great foundation before going into the operating room."

Kelly graduated from CCHS in May 2011 and started the PA program at Wingate University three months later. She became engaged during the surgical technology program and married her high school sweetheart, Drew, right in the middle of school. Kelly described the program as very challenging and requiring many hours of planning before each day. She experienced rotations in various specialties, but to no surprise, elected to do a double surgical rotation. Kelly completed the PA program in December 2013, and has signed on to work with a group of general surgeons at CMC-Union. She lives in Clover, SC, with her husband and one-year-old cat, Simon. CCHS is very proud of your accomplishments, Kelly!



Rosanne Younce Annas

Radiologic Technology '72

Rosanne Younce Annas graduated from the Charlotte Memorial Hospital radiologic technology program in 1972 and has been a Grad on the Go ever since. Rosanne recently retired from Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute (CCCTI), and shares these reflections on her education and career with fellow CMH/CCHS alumni.

What my medical education and the profession of radiography means to me:

A family friend and radiographer inspired me to pursue the profession of radiography my senior year in high school. This was the year before a radiography program started at CCCTI, so I moved to Charlotte to attend the two-year program at Charlotte Memorial Hospital. This program was highly respected and very difficult. After the first four grueling months, I had an epiphany...I loved radiography! Even though it was very challenging, I loved everything about the world of radiography. Being able to see inside the human body was just amazing to me and I felt privileged to be a part of the diagnostic process that helps a patient. The profession has always been very rewarding and I have spent almost four decades trying to give back and carry forward all the best the profession has to offer.

What the North Carolina Society of Radiologic Technologists (NCSRT) means to me:

My first contact with the NCSRT was as a radiography student in 1970. Our program director at Charlotte Memorial Hospital, Susan Stricker (RT '60), would send us to local and state meetings. Thus began my life-long habit of participation in and support of our professional societies. As an R.T.(R) for the past 40 years, I rarely missed an annual meeting and often took my students with me. Their participation and competitiveness was rewarded with many awards over the years. I also chaired the NCSRT Instructors' Committee and maintained the state directory of programs for many years. I have the utmost respect for the leaders of this society and all of the educators who make such a great difference in the life of our state's medical imaging workforce – past, present and future.

Continued on page 12

1996's Kuykendall Wins Top CHS Honor

The 60,000 teammates who comprise Carolinas HealthCare System know exactly what "pinnacle" means: the top of the top; the best of the best. This year Suzi (Pedone) Kuykendall (NUR '96) became part of a very elite group – a Carolinas HealthCare System's Pinnacle Winner, one of this year's top 10 Carolinas HealthCare System teammates. Her recognition included this high praise: Suzi, nurse manager of post anesthesia care services and pre-surgery holding at Carolinas Medical Center, is one of the System's finest, and her impact is felt far beyond her unit at Carolinas Medical Center. Suzi seems to have boundless energy. She is an encouraging leader, yet goal oriented and driven to seek excellence at every level.



Suzi Kuykendall
Nursing '96

Suzi cares deeply for the staff she manages. Having attained her Master's of Science in Nursing, she wants her nurses to have the opportunity for professional growth through education. Suzi will rework schedules so the nurses can attend college classes. Suzi makes patients and family members at the bedside feel more relaxed, staff feel empowered and fellow managers feel heard. Congratulations, Suzi!

Please Help CCHS Recognize Another Outstanding Alumnus

CCHS needs your help in recognizing some of the many outstanding graduates who have passed through its doors since 1941. Please take a few moments to nominate someone who graduated from CMH/CMHA/CCHS and has achieved notable accomplishments in healthcare or has made a difference in a community or the world. And it's definitely OK to nominate yourself!

Enter any one of the following ways:

- Send a letter or email detailing the individual's name, graduation year and accomplishments to Ellen Sheppard, c/o Carolinas College of Health Sciences, 1200 Blythe Boulevard, Charlotte, NC 28203 or Ellen.Sheppard@CarolinasCollege.edu
- Request a copy of the nomination form from Pat Lewis: 704-355-2029 or Pat.Lewis@CarolinasCollege.edu
- At the College website (CarolinasCollege.edu) click on Alumni then Alumni Forms

Past distinguished alumni include:

Elizabeth "Kit" Sluder	NUR '93	Tracy Jezierski-Harrelson	MT '92
Elinor Caddell	NUR '44	Louise "Mossy" Ansley	NUR '51
MK Brennan	NUR '96	Virginia "Ginny" Cloer	NUR '51
Tim Ludwig	RT '94	Nate Huggins	NUR '96
Jeff Reece	NUR '97	Eunice "Sooky" Hoffman	NUR '51

Grads on the Go! continued

My desire to teach:

I received an excellent education in radiography at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte (formerly Charlotte Memorial Hospital) and always felt those valuable experiences could benefit others. After practicing in the field at three of CCCTI's clinical education sites (Caldwell Memorial Hospital, Frye Regional Medical Center and Catawba Radiological Associates, Inc.), I was convinced that I could benefit more patients by sharing my skills and expertise in radiological science by teaching students to be as compassionate and accurate as possible.

How I began educating future radiographers:

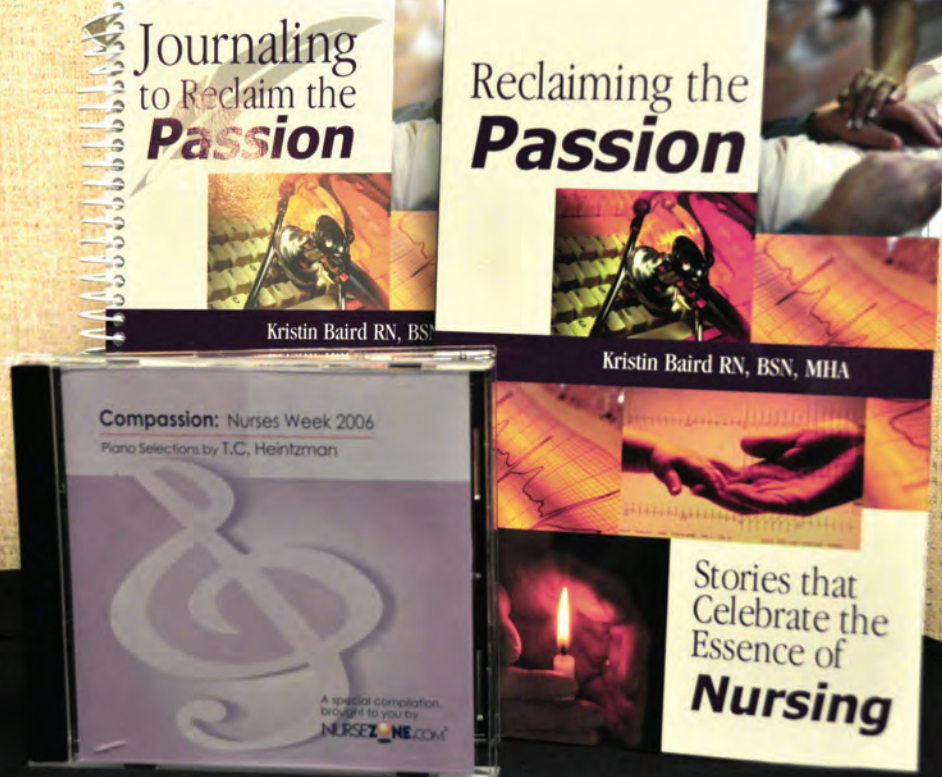
While employed at Frye Regional Medical Center (formerly Richard Baker Hospital) in Hickory, I was designated as Frye's first clinical instructor for CCCTI. During that time I was asked to substitute teach a radiography class at CCCTI. I was forever hooked.

Teaching's best:

I am always grateful to be present to observe the moment a student grasps a difficult concept (the light bulb effect). And then to witness the student's application of that concept in assisting a patient diagnostically is the best. The appreciation of graduates and employers is also very rewarding. But, the rush of being a part of a student's success in my professional world is second only to the ability to improve a patient's well-being. Teaching to me is a calling... missionary work if you will. For me it was a professional passion that could not be satisfied in any other way.

People ask "what will you do with your time?"

The same thing I have always done... do for others—especially my three precious grandchildren, Ethan, Cooper, and Clara.



CCHS Alumnus Tammie Heintzman co-produced "Reclaiming the Passion," a inspirational CD, journal, and book set for nurses

1994 Alumnus Draws on Many Talents!



Tammie Heintzman

Nursing '94

CMHA School of Nursing existed by that name only from 1990 to 1994. One of those early students was Tammie Heintzman. Tammie graduated in 1994 and has gone on to find success not only in nursing but also as a nurse educator, composer, performer and recording artist. It's not surprising then that Tammie's life philosophy leans heavily on finding balance, "I cannot

choose between family, music and career. I love them all! Balancing life includes a holistic approach: We teach and live and learn."

Tammie worked at Carolinas HealthCare System just two years before moving to San Diego. But she credits those two years with fueling her nursing career beyond her realization, "I worked with such a vast array of patients at Carolinas Medical Center and Cabarrus Memorial Hospital (now CMC-NorthEast) that I later transitioned easily into home health, working with hospice, infusion, wound and medical/surgical needs in the community. I love being able to see the world of the patient beyond the hospital room."

Today, another of her passions is teaching. She's taught for Kaplan for seven years and enjoys the nursing fundamentals that get students engaged, as well as nutrition and

endocrine. She delights in "adult students of multiple cultures and wide age ranges. Many are the first in their family to attend college." Her teaching philosophy? "Challenge yourself along with the student. Never stop learning." Those words would bring a smile to one of her CMHA instructors, Sue Tatro, who once assigned Tammie a client with 17 different medications because, "I knew you could do it!" Said Tammie, "That experience left me with a confidence I remember today." She also credits Brenda Vasquez and Delores Maxwell with preparing her for the real world even though "I'm sorry about the times I hid in the nurses lounge and hoped they wouldn't notice!" Though she enjoys teaching, the master's degree she's completing in executive leadership will also provide flexibility should she decide to move into community health, another field of interest. Tammie's eyes sparkle most brightly when she talks about her music. Connections caught up with Tammie to ask her about that part of her life.

CONNECTIONS: Tell us about your music. You have over 20 instrumental CDs!

TAMMIE: I started composing music in 1997 on the way home from my first hospice patient. I started hearing music and humming to it, not realizing that there was a different type of music playing on the radio. I got home and started to play what I was hearing, and my husband asked, "Are you playing Mozart or Yanni?" That was the beginning of an empathic journey that has yielded more than 450 compositions and over 20 CDs (some collections).

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Faculty ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Carolinas College's staff and faculty not only deliver top notch education and services to students, they also excel among their professional colleagues and in the community.



DR. LORI BEQUETTE, dean of Assessment and General Studies, is now a certified peer reviewer for Quality Matters. Quality Matters is an inter-institutional peer-review process dedicated to the continuous improvement of online and blended course design. Across the nation, college instructors teaching online must complete two courses to become eligible to be certified as a QM peer reviewer – one that focuses on standards for excellence in online teaching and another that focuses on the peer review process. The process mirrors that used for publishing in academic journals – a team of peers with appropriate expertise review online courses and determine whether they meet established standards, providing recommendations for improvement. As a result of Dr. Bequette's new role, Carolinas College will be able to apply the same process internally to ensure high quality online courses are offered to our students. Dr. Bequette is also representing the college on the new Carolinas HealthCare System committee Teaching with Technology.



SUSAN THOMASSON, CCHS director of Continuing Education, program director for the college's phlebotomy program, and alumnus (MLS '76), has been invited to serve in two professionally significant but very different capacities in 2014. First, she will be a proposal reviewer for the national FlipCon14 (Flipped Education Conference) in the area of higher education/professional development. Thus, any proposal submitted by college professors or administrators for presentation at the 2014 Flipped Education Conference must be approved by Susan. Flipped Education is a new concept in the last five years. Its fundamental tenet is that students benefit more from faculty expertise and class time if they've studied textbook and course content on their own, prior to class. Class time can then be devoted to meaningful discussion and application. Second, Susan is now a NAACLS reviewer for Phlebotomy program self-studies. NAACLS is the national accrediting body which accredits academic clinical laboratory science programs, including phlebotomy.



LAMAR JONES, coordinator and sole faculty for the CCHS Histotechnology program, was announced as the winner of the Lee G. Luna Foreign Travel Scholarship, awarded annually by the National Society for Histotechnology to fund a member's travel to a foreign country to advance a topic relevant to histotechnology and pathology. Lamar will travel to the Institute of Pathology at the University of Cologne Medical Center, Cologne, Germany, to study molecular techniques such as DNA extraction from paraffin-embedded tissue sections, PCR, high resolution melting analysis, and sequencing techniques. He plans to incorporate those basic molecular techniques into the Histotechnology program at CCHS.

ABOVE: Lamar Jones is shown with a vintage 1880-era microscope from his personal collection of antique microscopes.



KELLY SHIRLEY, director of the college's Medical Lab Science program and the School of Clinical Laboratory Sciences has been elected to serve a three-year term as secretary for the North Carolina Association of Blood Bankers (NCABB).



DR. DANA MANGUM and **DR. SUSAN PATTERSON**, School of Nursing faculty members, each completed the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree from Gardner-Webb University. Dana's area of focus within nursing education was developing an orientation program to transition the bedside nurse to a faculty role; Susan's research was on the effectiveness of the Emotional Freedom Technique as a method of stress control for nursing students.



KIM BRADSHAW, dean of Administrative and Financial Services, has accepted a new role, by that same title, which encompasses providing services to all three Carolinas HealthCare System-owned colleges: Mercy School of Nursing, Carolinas College, and Cabarrus College of Health Sciences. Said Dr. Ellen Sheppard, "As we seek ways to deliver high quality services to students in the most efficient way possible, this was a natural evolution, and Kim has demonstrated through her dedication, hard work, and intelligence that she could handle this complex role.



DR. ELLEN SHEPPARD, in addition to several other local, non-profit board positions, accepted a new term of office as executive steering committee member and treasurer of the NC Regional Allied Health Workforce Board and as chair of Carolinas HealthCare System's new committee on Interprofessional Education. The committee is charged with developing new approaches to using education as a vehicle to greater collaboration, respect and teamwork among physicians and other members of the professional healthcare team.



Other faculty completing additional degrees include **JODIE HUFFSTETLER**, radiologic technology faculty and alumnus (RT '05) who completed a master's degree; **MARY PARKMAN** and **BEVERLY MARTIN**, radiation therapy instructors, who earned new credentials - Parkman, a master's degree and Martin, a baccalaureate; and **BO CLARKE**, instructional technologist, who completed a master's degree.



Charlotte Memorial Hospital Historical Yearbooks Now Accessible Online

Your old CMH and CMHA yearbooks are now preserved and accessible for future generations, thanks to funding from the state, the foresight and love of history of a few dedicated scholars and Carolinas College's penchant for never missing an opportunity!

Said Nicholas Graham, program coordinator for the North Carolina Digital Heritage Center at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, "Every institution and every community in North Carolina has a story to tell. At the North Carolina Digital Heritage Center, we're thrilled to be able to help organizations like Carolinas College of Health Sciences share their history online."

Finding CMH's and CMHA's yearbooks online couldn't be easier. Go to the college's website, CarolinasCollege.edu and click on Alumni then Historic Yearbooks on the left sidebar. You'll be in the NC Digital Heritage Center and can find your desired year.

The North Carolina Digital Heritage Center is a statewide digitization and digital publishing program housed in the North Carolina Collection at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. They're digitizing scrapbooks, yearbooks, and other items of possible historical significance. Contact them; your treasures may just fill a void in their collection: 919-962-4836, digitalnc.org.

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CONNECTIONS: What is it in music that inspires and rewards you?

TAMMIE: I hear music when I see a rainbow or talk with a person or even walk on the beach. I have used music for personal coping and to help others relax. One dear lady told me her dog stopped barking and was calmed by my music. Another said it's the best dinner music and allows the children to calmly share their day. A touching email came from someone who'd lost her copy of the "Taking Time for You" CD after she'd shared it with her sister during the final days of her life. I sent her a new copy with additional music. I'm inspired that people respond to a gift I cannot claim control of and don't completely understand. Though I'm often asked to teach composition, I can't teach someone to hear music in their head. But I do encourage listening to one's inner self, especially nurses. Nurses must explore how they view life and death, joy and sadness, in order to effectively share and lead.

CONNECTIONS: What was your musical background?

TAMMIE: Two years of piano lessons and a verbal recommendation for the NC School of the Arts. I played in church for 14 years, starting in seventh grade and have been playing with an unbelievable worship team for the past eight years. But most importantly, I thank my mother and father for loving me and my music, and my sister who always asked me to "play anything" for her. I miss them and am comforted to have quiet music to reflect on our lives.

CONNECTIONS: Do you do a lot of live performances?

TAMMIE: I play at the local Civic Center, for fundraisers, and at various other venues. Between 1997 and 2006 I performed at over 350 venues ranging from the La Jolla Arts Festival and Coronado's Ferry Landing Sunday concerts to Barnes and Noble and a traveling art exhibition – all while working full time. I was exhausted! Now I focus on music as a way to help people. I play for assisted living centers and areas that bring family and patients together. I've juggled music and nursing since 1997 - with great joy and energy.

Tammie graciously donated a CD of her work to CCHS. Called "Reclaiming the Passion," it's more than a CD. It's a book, journal, and CD – inspired by the stories of many nurses.

"I wanted to encourage nurses to look at and share their gifts. We are a trusted group of professionals but life is fast. We have to stop and recognize what we can do on a small scale."



Connections readers interested in checking out Tammie's work can email her at tammie.heintzman@gmail.com. She has many CDs available and her own recording label and rights. Or, the complete "Reclaiming the Passion" journal and recording set is available through Amazon, by Kristin Baird.



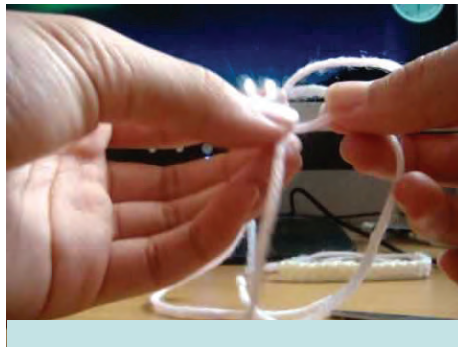
MLS students attend annual NC/SC professional conventions, thanks to Betty Anderson Scholarship funding. Here, Ashley Jewell and George Vuong talk with a vendor about innovative lab equipment.

Alumni Gifts Benefit Students in Unexpected Ways

The generosity of CCHS alumni benefits the college and CCHS students through scholarships, equipment and textbook resources, and by allowing the college to keep its tuition affordable. Sometimes students benefit in other, more unusual ways.

For instance, the college occasionally offers to sponsor students' attendance at extra-curricular activities and uses donor-provided endowment to do so. Thanks to funding available through the Betty Anderson Scholarship, all medical laboratory science students have the opportunity to attend an annual NC/SC conference for medical laboratory professionals. Said Kelly Shirley, program director, "This is an amazing opportunity. Thanks to the Betty Anderson funds, students make their first professional connections and develop an appreciation for the network of colleagues they have in both states."

Another example was the college's decision to sponsor several students' attendance to a local one-day conference in the field of mental health. Said Nicole Berry, a nursing



student who took advantage of the fully-funded offer, "I learned a lot of techniques to use with patients. It reminded me a little of behavioral health class with healing touch and being mindful of what you do and say. We made a yarn bracelet and were told to think about turning points in our lives as we knotted the yarn. It's a therapy for older patients that encourages them to look back therapeutically on their life. I really understood it and I appreciate the opportunity. Thank You!"

This year, a new Honors Student program, partly funded through the college's endowment, was initiated to recognize particularly outstanding

applicants. Alumni gifts help fund the program. Tentatively called the CCHS Honors Program, it provides a \$1,000 scholarship to up to 15 accepted students and resources for developing a year's worth of special programming for those students. Commented Dr. Janice Terrell, college provost, "This program provides the 'best of the best' applicants with yet another reason to attend Carolinas College, and allows us to enrich their first year of attendance with a get acquainted reception and attendance at special meetings and workshops." A January reception welcomed the first four CCHS Honors Program students.



SEEN AROUND CCHS

1 Student Frances Pak joined the “Planting Trees for Charlotte” project



2 CCHS lobby before and after the 2013 building-wide renovation.



4 Ashanti Fergusson (NUR '09) and Brandon Bryant (NUR '11) attended the fall scholarship reception to share with donors how critical alumni-funded scholarships had been to their success.



5 Brandon, who'd been a Marilyn Gaffney scholar, is pictured with Asia Holman, the current Gaffney scholar. Ashanti, currently a graduate student at Johns Hopkins, is pictured with her daughter.



6 Like all graduates, McKenzie Masters says a fond farewell to classmates and to CCHS, but hello to a new career.



7 CCHS often sponsors events to teach young people about healthcare careers. Here, Boy Scouts learn about radiography from program director, Doug Frankenburg, and high school students learn from CCHS Student Government Association President Bryan McLaughlin about inhalation therapy.



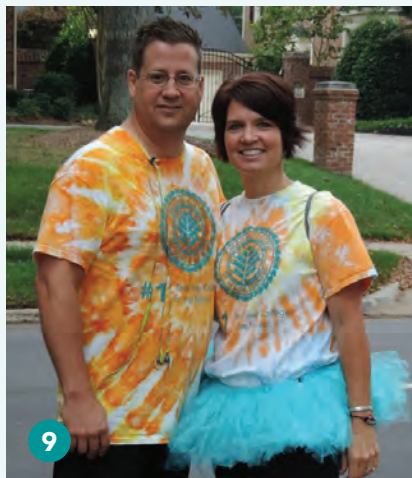
11 Debbie Woodard, a certified WOCN nurse, teaches CCHS's online Wound Treatment Associate program, designed for RNs who want special training in wound/ostomy care.



12 Generous CCHS staff exceeded all goals in the 2013 Community Giving Campaign, bringing home the Gold Award for the college. Flanking Joe Piemont, Carolinas HealthCare System president and chief operating officer, are campaign leaders Claudette Kaveler (l) and Melissa Jackson (MLS '09) along with President Sheppard (far left) and Kimberly Yarborough (MLS '83) far right.



13 Distinguished alumna Eunice Hoffman (NUR '51) celebrated with Ashley Costello.



9 **10** Student and staff alike participated in the "Hopebuilders" fundraising run for Levine Children's Hospital.



14 For Halloween, some students masqueraded as dreaded hospital-acquired infections.



15 Students and staff took a fitness walk around Freedom Park and ate at Charlotte's newest treat – Friday Night Food Truck.



16 The August Radiation Therapy graduates also celebrated the program's new accreditation.

Q. What do Washington, DC and Belize Have in Common?

A. New Opportunities for CCHS!

The mission for CCHS has been, and will continue to be, educating the best prepared nurses and allied health professionals. But occasionally, exciting opportunities to enrich that mission come along. In the last eight months two such opportunities arose, and CCHS jumped on them.



THE DC OPPORTUNITY Last spring CCHS President Ellen Sheppard received an invitation from The White House. (Yep. THE White House!) It was an invitation to presidents of colleges with demonstrated commitment to community service, to learn of a new Obama administration challenge. Connections readers know how dedicated CCHS staff and students are to blood drives, homeless shelters, the Salvation Army Christmas Bureau, Florence Crittenton, etc. Always eager for a new challenge, Sheppard, along with Dr. Hampton Hopkins, Dean of Student Affairs, Kim Bradshaw, Dean of Administrative and Financial Services, and Rev. Terri Bolotin, with Carolinas HealthCare System Spiritual Care and Education, headed for DC. At the White House reception and later at sessions at Georgetown University, the group heard from Under Secretary of Education Martha Kantor and Secretary of Education Arne Duncan about President Obama's dream to use community service initiatives as a platform to expand campus interfaith trust and understanding. "Our rationale," said Secretary Duncan, "is this – when colleges bring young people of different faiths, ethnicities and cultures together to serve their communities, they are concurrently building bridges across students' differences. Those bridges, if built intentionally, will last a lifetime." Said Dean Hopkins on return to Charlotte, "Diversity matters. In a city, a state and a nation becoming more diverse, it's vital that our healthcare providers understand, respect, and honor one another and



those in their care, regardless of faith, culture, or national origin. This conference has given us some exciting ideas about building bridges across diversity."



THE BELIZE OPPORTUNITY

Since the 1970s, the International Medical Outreach Program of Carolinas HealthCare System (then Charlotte Memorial Hospital), the Heineman Foundation, and the Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute have actively worked to improve healthcare in Central America. Dr. Francis Robicsek, a world renowned cardiothoracic surgeon, has worked with surgeons from El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala and Belize (among others) to help those nations develop their own medical infrastructure. Recently, donations of medical and technology equipment and expertise led to the

establishment of a cardiology program in Belize, along with a real-time communication bridge providing seamless consultation between US and Belize physicians. In December 2013, Dr. Robicsek contacted Ellen Sheppard after meeting with CCHS alumni interested in his international efforts. "Come with us, Ellen. There may be opportunities for the college." As with the White House invitation, opportunity didn't need to knock twice. In January 2014, another group headed from Charlotte to Belize with two goals: to perform multiple open-heart surgeries and to open an echocardiography (echo) laboratory at Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital (KHHM) in Belize City. Generous funding from the Heineman Foundation allowed Sheppard to join the group and to meet with Ms. Michele Hoare, KHHM's Director of Nursing. All Belize nurses are university trained, as there are



no hospital-based programs, but Sheppard and Hoare agreed to explore opportunities for a CCHS elective experience in Belize, for CCHS faculty-led lectures that would be open to KHHM nurses, and for CCHS students to provide faculty-supervised assessments in government clinics. Said Sheppard, "Many CCHS students are hungry to see healthcare from a global perspective, and to participate in a purposeful international experience. I'm optimistic this will lead to something very exciting."

Spotlight On: Continuing Your Education

NOTE: The spotlight section features a CCHS alum's journey. Information is provided by alumni, for alumni. CCHS does not necessarily endorse the school nor the course of study. Do you have a story to share? Send it to Ruthie.Mihal@CarolinasHealthCare.org.

Kelly Holmesly Harris (NUR '04) has joined the growing ranks of acute care nurse practitioners, a field sure to grow as advanced practice nurses take on an expanding role in healthcare delivery. In Kelly's words...

"I did an online didactic program through the University of Southern Indiana and coordinated all of my clinical experiences locally. I stayed in close contact with and submitted weekly paperwork to my clinical instructor. We also Skyped on a regular basis. I thought the program was very well run, especially having a distance option. The first four semesters were mainly didactic classes like research, theory, pathophysiology, pharmacology, etc. There were classmates on the campus who attended class, in person, for the lectures. But for people like me, the lectures were either live streamed or recorded for later viewing. I enjoyed the fact that I could go back and review the lectures later – for studying or clarification of a particular point. I always tried to be present for the live stream so I'd be 'part of the class' but it was nice knowing it was there for later if I needed a second viewing.

The clinical experience, Managing the Patient, was the last part of the program, and it was phenomenal. That is when we actually got out and started practicing. We were responsible for securing our own clinical sites so I started working on this very early in the program. This is where it got tough. We lost more people from our class during those

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CCHS's two 2014 inductees to the Great 100: Michele Pfaff, MSN, RN, and Deborah Blackwell, PhD, RNC, WHCNP.

The Great 100 Inducts Two from CCHS

Celebrating the best nurses in the state is a long standing tradition in North Carolina, but it became a formal affair in 1988 when Heather Thorne founded The Great 100 – a grassroots peer recognition organization. The group has four objectives:

- Recognizing the importance of registered nurses in diverse practice settings.
- Positively impacting the image of nursing.
- Acknowledging 100 North Carolina nurses annually who demonstrate excellence in practice and commitment.
- Contributing funds for scholarships for registered nurse education.

A number of CCHS alumni and faculty have become members of this elite group, and in 2013 – the 25th anniversary of the group's founding, two more joined the ranks: Dr. Deborah Blackwell, CCHS Dean of Nursing, and Michele Pfaff, nursing faculty member and the college's 2013 Outstanding Educator.



To learn more about the organization and past initiates, go to great100.org. Nominations for the 2014 Class are open now!



LEFT: On hand to support the new inductees were past inductees Lynn Jordan (left) and Janie McCloskey (right), and CCHS President Ellen Sheppard (center). Past inductee alumnus Melissa Williams (NUR '96) was on hand as well.



Thiruvananthapuram (also known as Trivandrum), a coastal city of over one million residents in Kerala, India.

Alumnus Explores Palliative Care in India

Before finding her way to CCHS, Stacey Sheasby Holman studied at Rainy River Community College, the University of North Dakota and UNC Charlotte. A career in finance with Wachovia Bank brought her to Charlotte but didn't provide the challenge or the sense of purpose she needed. Realizing that nursing could fulfill what was missing in her life, she quickly found and started classes at CCHS. Community service became her passion and she was one of the small cadre of students who made regular visits to the YMCA, providing clients with blood pressure data and wellness advice. Graduating in December 2010, she became the first new graduate ever hired by Levine Cancer Institute. Today, in addition to pursuing Duke University's RN-to-MSN degree, working full time as an oncology nurse, and being a founding member of the CCHS Young Alumni Council, she found a new passion – Global Health Education. This is Stacey's story of how that passion blossomed in Trivandrum, the largest city in Kerala, India.

STACEY: Global health education has always been an interest of mine, but until November 2013 my healthcare experience hadn't extended beyond



the US. As an oncology nurse practitioner student, my search for a global immersion experience began with a culturally curious mind narrowing the search based on practical needs: I needed a program that carried academic credit, was in English, fit my schedule and provided clinical experiences that applied to master's-level study. Studying palliative care in southern India was a perfect match. I was fortunate to be awarded a scholarship from the American Cancer Society, and with three other nurse practitioner students in my program, set off on a month-long journey – a journey that would broaden my perspective of palliative care, deepen my understanding of cultural competence and change my life.

India is second only to China in overall population, and when I arrived, my senses were instantly overwhelmed by the sights and sounds of my new environment. Accommodations in Trivandrum, a city of one million in south India, were modest but adequate, despite being without many modern conveniences – like hot water and air conditioning. I adapted easily. The hardest adjustment was living with the ever-present critters – the six- and eight-legged ones! Days were packed with didactic coursework and home visits. Classroom time followed a traditional western education model, but was peppered with role plays and moved at a slower pace. For clinical experiences we'd pile into a van with doctors, nurses and social workers to find our patients, traveling down narrow, winding, unpaved roadways – sometimes going deep into the jungle. Treatment plans included symptom management for terminal illnesses like cancer, but we also palliated symptoms for quadriplegic and stroke patients.

On inpatient units in the public medical facilities, nurses are responsible for caring for as many as 100 patients. Imagine that, 100 patients! On an oncology unit, it

is closer to 1:25, and oncologists may also see 70-100 patients per day. How is that possible? Well, in India, the family carries much of the responsibility for caring for loved ones. The family provides the food, administers oral medications and performs all dressing changes. The family even decides how much the patient will know, or not know, about their own diagnosis. That concept was the catalyst for many evening debates in our flat.

I enjoyed this experience tremendously and hope to return to India in the near future. I found that when you look past chaos and poverty, you find humble, happy people with pure hearts. I absolutely recommend that students participate in global immersion programs whenever possible. It broadens your perspective, builds your confidence and opens your heart.



Fresh veggies are always available on the streets of Trivandrum, where many residents are vegetarian, and even carnivores rarely eat meat more than a few times a week.

CCHS Alumnus Develops and Teaches College's Newest Online Program: Specialist in Blood Banking

One factor most likely to lead Carolinas College to develop and offer a new program – an anticipated workforce shortage. Such a shortage led CCHS alumnus Melissa Jackson (MLS '09) to suggest that CCHS offer an online SBB (specialist in blood banking) program. Melissa, who joined the CCHS faculty in 2010, is a certified SBB and teaches the immunohematology component of the medical lab science program – the perfect match of need and personnel.

According to the ASCP's (American Society for Clinical Pathologist) Wage and Vacancy Survey, "Of all laboratory departments surveyed, blood bank/transfusion medicine had the highest overall staff vacancy rate at 11.6 percent, with the supervisor vacancy rate at an astounding 18.6 percent." All blood bank supervisors must be certified as SBB's. What does that mean, exactly? Well, SBB's are knowledgeable in all aspects of blood banking, transfusion medicine, hematopoietic, cellular and gene



therapies, and tissue transplantation. They're experts on a variety of subjects including regulatory and quality systems, genetics, immunology, blood groups, collection and storage of blood and components, donor processing, immune mechanisms, component therapy, transfusion of the newborn, complications of transfusion, laboratory management and education. An SBB certification can be awarded to any medical technologist or medical

laboratory scientist who is ASCP certified and currently working in the field of blood banking or transfusion medicine.

CCHS administrators reviewed the rationale and, with board approval, gave Melissa the green light to develop the program which enrolled the first class in the fall of 2013. Developing and teaching a new program would be daunting for many, but Melissa relished the opportunity. She grew up in Mt. Gilead, NC, and attended Pfeiffer University, where she met her husband Nick, prior to attending CCHS. They're expecting their first child this fall. The CCHS SBB program is a 12-month, two-course, fully online program. Graduates are qualified to take the ASCP SBB examination. For more information on the CCHS specialist in blood bank technology/transfusion medicine program, go to CarolinasCollege.edu, click on View Our Programs and then specialist in blood bank technology/transfusion medicine.



Michele generates positive energy and shows future nurses the many ways they can make a difference with patients.

2013 Outstanding EDUCATOR

MICHELE PFAFF, MSN, RN, joined Carolinas College in 2002 as a nursing faculty member for the child and adolescent health course. Since then, she's been a transformational nurse educator who represents the nursing profession and the college with utmost commitment to excellence. She seamlessly integrates technology within her teaching methodology and uses active learning approaches to make nursing concepts clear to students. In 2013, she championed two interprofessional education projects. First, a Children's Miracle Network grant allowed her to collaboratively develop a one-day seminar in which nursing and radiologic technology students learned and worked together on a major patient safety goal. Second, she strengthened the collaborative clinical simulation experiences for senior nursing students and surgical residents. Both experiences show how Michele readily engages with team members outside the school of nursing to foster meaningful opportunities to promote team-based healthcare delivery.

In addition to her effective management of a full faculty workload, Michele has served as the intermediate nursing level coordinator for the past five years and has been the chair of the college's Learning Resource Committee since February, 2010. Each year she coordinates nursing students at the "Heart of a Champion" Day. There she guides students as they take blood pressures, record weight, and assist the healthcare team with physical assessments, EKG's, and echocardiograms. Michele generates positive energy and shows future nurses the many ways they can make a difference with patients.

Michele's commitment to students, patients and families is a constant characteristic of her work. She promotes the nursing profession through her service in numerous professional and community organizations. For the past 10 years she's served in a number of board-level positions for the North Carolina Associate Degree Nursing (NCADN) Council, including president, membership committee chair and coordinator for continuing education credit. Her involvement with NCADN has allowed her to engage with nurse leaders across the state to solicit input on legislative priorities for the organization to champion. In 2013 Ms. Pfaff was tapped for membership in the prestigious "Great 100," recognition of the best 100 nurses in North Carolina.

Michele consistently seeks opportunities to improve nursing practice. She has twice been selected by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing to offer her expertise with developing the nursing licensure test blue print and test question items. Her commitment to nursing service extends to community organizations as well. She has been an active parent involved in her county's Parent Teacher Association and has served every year since 2002 as a board member at the elementary, middle or high school level. She is currently the PTA president. For the past two years, she has been a member of the St. Matthew Catholic Church American Red Cross Disaster team. Her presence within these organizations offers supportive encouragement for others to become active citizens who make a difference within their community.

Oh, and did we mention - she's also enrolled in Gardner Webb's Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program and anticipates becoming Dr. Pfaff in fall, 2014.

Carolinas College honors Michele Pfaff as its 2013 Outstanding Educator.



Sooky was instrumental in developing these relationships and creating an environment that allowed the patients to be cared for.

2013 Distinguished ALUMNUS

EUNICE SPIRES HOFFMAN, MSN, RN, "Sooky" to her classmates, is a 1951 graduate of Charlotte Memorial Hospital School of Nursing. After graduation she returned to Miami and worked in the operating room. She subsequently moved to Gainesville to the University of Florida Clinic, to Alachua General Hospital as supervisor of the general surgery unit and then to several places in Florida before moving to Tucson, AZ, while her husband was in graduate school. After returning to Florida for a short stay, she moved back to Arizona where she obtained her master's degree in nursing from Northern Arizona University. There she taught for ten years before returning to Florida and her first love, the operating room, at Shands Hospital at the University of Florida as division educator. She worked there 10 years full-time, six years part-time – and finally retired. But her retirement was anything but the typical retirement as she had already started volunteering her talents to medical missions.

In her "retired" years, she has been on Mercy Ships medical mission trips to Honduras, the Dominican Republic and Africa. She also served on 13 Medical Missions International trips. In Africa, she assisted on reconstructive maxillofacial, orthopedic and general surgeries. In Honduras, her work consisted of eye surgeries, returning sight to those blinded by cataracts. In the Dominican Republic she assisted in general surgeries that numbered up to 20 a day. On her last Dominican Republic trip in 2012, she was the only scrub nurse, working two OR tables, switching from one to the other while others cleared the previous case. She

participated in as many as 30 cases a day, often from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Her last mission trip was in September 2012. She sustained a hand injury which has sidelined her in 2013.

Sooky calls it a joy to work with the volunteer doctors, nurses and staff from all over the world. She believes flexibility is a valuable trait for all volunteers, allowing them to adapt to the current situation and build excellent teamwork. Some of the procedures were accomplished with what seemed like outdated techniques, since much of the equipment, supplies and medicines were not the most current. But despite that, cooperation was the key. Coming from different nations, the medical team simply joined forces to do what must be done. As a member of this team, Sooky was instrumental in developing these relationships and creating an environment that allowed the patients to be cared for. A devout Episcopalian, Sooky says, "God puts us in the right place at the right time, and it works out."

Today, as a white-haired senior nurse, she remains nearly as active as the red-headed youthful one. A mother of four, grandmother of eight and great-grandmother of two, she has utilized her nursing skills to the fullest. This has included caring for her mother-in-law until her death, assisting other family members with terminal illnesses and making an eight-day trip to the Carolinas to provide nursing care for a Charlotte Memorial Hospital classmate.

Carolinas College of Health Sciences proudly celebrates Eunice Spires Hoffman as its 2013 Distinguished Alumnus.

CCHS Bids Farewell – HealthCare Says Welcome

The May commencement address was delivered by NC Representative Ruth Samuelson and nearly 90 degrees and diplomas were awarded to nursing, radiologic technology and surgical technology students. In August 2013, longtime administrator Joe Bowers retired from Carolinas HealthCare System and the same week helped CCHS say goodbye to graduating medical laboratory science and radiation therapy students. His graduation address must have been inspirational – all of the new graduates passed their certification and registry exams on the first try.

In December, Reverend David Carl, executive director of the Carolinas HealthCare System's spiritual care and education department, assisted with a traditional Blessing of the Hands at capping and also delivered a memorable commencement address for medical lab science, histotechnology and nursing graduates. In a somber moment, the college awarded its first posthumous degree. The ceremony marked the first class of Histotechnologists to complete CCHS's newest program, and within a few days, all had passed their registry exam.

CEREMONY



COMMEMORATION



CELEBRATION



More pictures are on the college's photo sharing site at:
CarolinasCollege.smugmug.com.

Continued from page 21

times because it's difficult, but doable if you put forth the effort and time. I kept the same clinical instructor the entire time during the program which helped tremendously; she was a big part of my success.

I am excited to hear about the Carolinas HealthCare System/UNCC acute care nurse practitioner program. I am forever indebted to CCHS because without you all I would not be where I am today. I always tell people that CCHS is by far the best nursing school around!"

CCHS Notes to Readers:

1. The acute care nurse practitioner program mentioned by Kelly opened in 2013 as a partnership between Carolinas HealthCare System and UNCC. For information, visit the UNCC website nursing.uncc.edu/degree-programs/graduate-msn-and-certificates/adult-gerontology-acute-care-nurse-practitioner.
2. Competition for precepted clinicals at a Carolinas HealthCare System site is intense. If you're in – or are considering – a program that requires you to secure clinical space, contact Liz Yocom, CHS Clinical Placement Coordinator, for advice. Elizabeth.Yocom@CarolinasHealthCare.org.



Consider Carolinas College of Health Sciences in Your Estate Planning

While you may give annually to Carolinas College of Health Sciences (CCHS), we ask that you also consider leaving a legacy of generosity by providing for CCHS in your will.

It is easy to support CCHS and its programs in your estate. Bequest language may indicate that a bequest is to be designated for the benefit of CCHS in general or for a particular charitable fund that benefits CCHS (e.g., "for the benefit of the Nursing Program Fund at CCHS").

Bequests reflected in trust or will documents should be made to "The Carolinas HealthCare Foundation, Inc. for the benefit of Carolinas College of Health Sciences." The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. A tax exemption letter is available upon request.

Bequests can be tailored to your interests. Please contact Kelly Osborne at 704-355-1955 or visit GiveCarolinas.org for details.

Scholarship Gratitude

Dear Donors of the Harris Endowment Scholarship,

I was honored to receive a letter last week stating I was a recipient of the 2013-2014 Harris Endowment Scholarship. I was surprised and humbled to say the least. Being a full-time student means finances are tight. This scholarship means so much more to me than just money; it also brings me peace of mind. Having this extra money going towards my education takes pressure off my shoulders. I will be able to focus more diligently on my studies and perfecting my skills as a future Radiologic Technologist.

To the donors of this scholarship, I thank you all wholeheartedly. Your generosity has touched my heart in more ways than one. It is encouraging to know there are openhearted individuals that support Carolinas College of Health Sciences. I intend to take your spirit of giving and apply it to my career and everyday life. Thank you again for this wondrous gift.

Rene D. Norman

Thank You

I would like to extend my deepest appreciation for your contribution. Your donation to the Cato Nursing & Allied Health Scholarship will allow me to spend less time working, and focus on my studies and two small children. I cannot stress enough how much your kindness has made a positive impact on my education and home life.

Again many times
Thank you,
Jana Renee
Class of 2014!

Scholarship Gratitude Continued

Dear Donors of the
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Your choice to support
a complete stranger on
her journey to become a
nurse is very moving
to me. Thank you for
so generously sharing
something of yourself
with me. I hope only to
merit your gift and be-
come an excellent nurse!
God bless you! Sincerely,
Emily Brigham

Dear Jim and Nancy Hill Scholarship Donors,

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude to you for making the Jim and Nancy Hill Scholarship possible. I was thrilled to learn of my selection for this honor and am deeply appreciative of your support.

I am currently entering the Nursing curriculum with hopes of becoming a pediatric nurse. The financial assistance you provided will be of great help to me in paying my educational expenses, and it will allow me to concentrate more of my time for studying.

Thank you again for your generosity and support. I promise you, I will work very hard and eventually give something back to others, both as a nurse and possibly a scholarship to future students like myself.

Sincerely,

Jody K. Warren

Dear Parsons Radiologic Technologist Scholarship Donors,

A simple thank you really does not convey the gratitude I would like to express. Your generosity will allow me to continue my path in the Radiologic Technology Program. Financial reserves are definitely dwindling as I can only work part time while attending school. I was becoming increasingly concerned about options to fund the rest of my education. Being awarded the Parsons Scholarship has taken a huge load off my mind and my finances. Due to your kindness I will most certainly be able to graduate next May.

While going through the scholarship application process, I had the opportunity to learn a little about Dr. Parsons. Without exception, everyone spoke about his commitment to education and teaching. Undoubtedly, he had a passion for students and learning. I am so privileged to be awarded this scholarship in his name. I do not take this honor lightly. I will continue to work hard in the hopes that my efforts will, in some small way, honor the legacy of Dr. Parsons.

Your willingness to contribute to the Parsons Scholarship is so very touching to me. I will work hard to make sure your donation is put to good use. My current GPA is 4.0 and I plan to carry that through to graduation. I really cannot thank you enough for your willingness to give. Your donation has made all the difference in the world to me. I am truly honored and so very proud.

Gratefully yours,

Stephanie Smith

Honor **ROLL** of our generous alumni and donors.

The list below includes those who've given – or pledged to give – without thought of personal gain. The college recognizes, appreciates and honors the generosity of these individuals. If your gift(s) arrived after February 28, it will be listed in our next edition. If your gift is not listed or listed incorrectly, please contact Pat Lewis at 704-355-2029 or Pat.Lewis@CarolinasCollege.edu so we can correct the error with our next publication. Thank you!

KEY

EMS	Emergency Medical Science
MLS	Medical Laboratory Science
MT	Medical Technology
NUR	Nursing
RT	Radiologic Technology
RTT	Radiation Therapy
ST	Surgical Technology

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CLASS OF 1947

Lila Gilbert Kuehnert (NUR) has been asked to speak about her experiences in the Cadet Nurse Corps at the November 2013 meeting of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She recently celebrated her 90th birthday.

CLASS OF 1960

Cecilia "CC" Waggoner (NUR) has been accepted to volunteer for Wings of Hope (WOH), based in St. Louis (CC's home). CC is a perfect fit for the organization's air transport mission due to her background as an OR nurse and her experience as a flight attendant. (Husband and son are also pilots). CC just started volunteering last fall and has already been asked to assume the role of head nurse. Recently through WOH she accompanied a brain surgery patient to Stanford Medical Center for two weeks, taking her to all appointments and tests, and caring for her post op. Wings of Hope, which has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, helps over one million people a year by aiding in infrastructure development in places as varied as Haiti and Congo. It is non-sectarian, non-political, volunteer driven and accepts no government assistance.

CLASS OF 1963

Tommie Parris Bartine (NUR) moved from El Paso, TX to a gated retirement community in Arizona.

Carolyn Caskey Rotman (NUR) has been under the weather since early December with an as-yet-undiagnosed malady. She's crossing her fingers that recent diagnostic tests will lead to solutions.

Pat Lloyd Weeks (NUR) reports that her son Michael graduated from medical school and will be doing his four-year residency at the University of Washington, Seattle. This now makes two doctors in the family as he joins his sister in the profession.

CLASS OF 1971

Marsha Memory (RT) retired in April 2013 after 36+ years as a radiologic technologist for Wesley Long Hospital, part of the Cone Health System in Greensboro, NC. She is helping her daughter with her home baking business, Kakes By Kelly, as a baker one to two days a week. Said Marsha, "I am so enjoying retirement."

CLASS OF 1972

Rosanne Younce Annas (RT) retired from Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute after 36 years of teaching and directing the radiologic technology program. (See story, Page 9).

CLASS OF 1978

Four graduates of Charlotte Memorial Hospital's School of Medical Technology/Medical Laboratory Science program, gathered for a 35-year reunion July 2013 in N. Myrtle Beach, SC. Members present



were (from L-R) **Terry Thompson Bailey**, **Cyndie James Hobson**, **Alice Cheek Riddle** and **Elizabeth Parks Fowler**. They shared fond memories of their program director, Betty Anderson, and all the instructors they had during their time at CMH/Carolinas HealthCare System. They enjoyed dining together, reminiscing about their antics in school and shagging the night away with their spouses. All are still working, three full-time, one part-time and three are still at the same place they started working when they graduated from MT/MLS school. Terry Bailey currently lives in S. Myrtle Beach and commutes each day to be the Quality Assurance and Remote Testing Supervisor for McLeod Regional Medical Center in Florence, SC; Cyndie

Hobson is the Clinical Microbiology Instructor for the CCHS Medical Laboratory Science Program in Charlotte, NC, where they all graduated from in 1978; Alice Riddle is currently an MLS in the Lab Compliance Department but previously worked in the Microbiology Laboratory for 32 years prior to transferring; and Elizabeth Fowler is the Blood Bank Supervisor of Columbus Regional Healthcare System. Needless to say, a good time was had by all and each promised to make this an annual event.

CLASS OF 1990

Julie J. (MLS) continues with her mission work in Africa with the Jesus Film Project.

CLASS OF 1992

Valerie Brown Snyder (NUR) received her BSN in May 2013 from Liberty University in Lynchburg, VA.

CLASS OF 1994

Garett Trumpower (NUR) obtained his BSN in 1997 and his BS in Management Information Systems in 2002 from the UNC Charlotte and is a Vice President of Consulting Services at MEDSEEK.

CLASS OF 1995

Ralph (Mac) Herring (NUR) is the director of professional relations for Catawba Regional Hospice and serving a third four-year term on the Mooresville Town Board of Commissioners.

CLASS OF 1996

Debbie Bradshaw (NUR) completed her MSN at Queens University-Charlotte on May 3, 2013.



Alumni PATHWAYS Continued

Nate Huggins (NUR) broke ground in late February 2014 on a new location for Blessed Assurance Adult Day Care, the center which he owns and operates. The expansion to an Independence Boulevard location was necessary due to the phenomenal success of the Matthews-based center he opened in 1998.

Joy Sells Kieffer (NUR) is the department chair and assistant professor of nursing at Mount Olive College in Mount Olive, NC. She is also chair of the institutional review board at MOC.

John Lindsay (NUR) is now principal trainer/informatics educator with Duke University Health System.

CLASS OF 1997

Micah Johnson Duemig (NUR) welcomed a baby boy in April 2013.

Ruth Scacchetti Messick (NUR) is working at Healthy@Home-CMC as a case manager and is excited to announce that her daughter, Katie Scacchetti, a 2013 CCHS graduate, has passed the boards and is now an RN.

CLASS OF 1999

Terri Sanchez (NUR) is a facilitator for implementation of the patient-centered medical home across Novant Health practices in Charlotte. Said Terri, "I hope to continue my NP practice on a PRN basis but felt this would give me a 'rounded' foundation. Although I must say learning business aspects, change management, etc., has been a steep learning curve, I'm hoping this is all good for my brain growth!" Terri's daughter, Hallie, is following in mom's footsteps and is a current CCHS nursing student.

CLASS OF 2000

Christie Coan Bullard (NUR) and husband Mark welcomed baby girl Sophia Greyson on January 11.



CLASS OF 2001

Kendall Haigh (NUR) graduated from the CRNA program and earned her MSN degree on December 13, 2013. She also successfully completed the certification exam and now works as a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist at Carolinas Medical Center.

CLASS OF 2004

Kelly Homesley Harris (NUR) graduated May 3 from the University of Southern Indiana with an MSN in Acute Care Nurse Practitioner. In addition, Kelly and husband Daniel welcomed a son, Dane, in December 2011.

Shannon Heitz (NUR) married Jeff Smith in August 2011 and is now living in Florida. In addition to being the busy mother of five children, Shannon works for Genesis Health Care as the director of nursing.

Dede Fraley Jefferson (NUR) and husband Brian welcomed baby girl Adelyne on January 10.

Amy Nix (RT) married Dan Hannon in December 2011.

Sherry Roux (NUR) was inducted into the Great 100 nurses in North Carolina.

CLASS OF 2005

Laura Capranica (NUR) gave a poster presentation at the Southern Gerontological Society Conference in April 2013.

Shannon Clark (NUR) is teaching full-time at Central Piedmont Community College. She and husband John are expecting another baby soon.

Amy Downs (NUR) works as a psychiatric nurse practitioner at the VA clinic in Rock Hill, SC.

Alan Tobias (NUR) received stroke certification from the American Board of Neuroscience Nursing (ABNN) in October 2013.

CLASS OF 2006

Jessica Blackmon (ST) married Corey Shanks in April 2013.

Thorey Cook (ST) married Wynn Robinson in September 2013.

CLASS OF 2007

Brooke Crutchfield (NUR) was accepted into Vanderbilt University's RN-to-MSN program in August 2013.



John Morris (NUR) was awarded the Bayada Home Health Care "National Hometown Hero of the Year" award in June 2013.

Alicia Shaw (NUR) was inducted into the Great 100 nurses for North Carolina in 2011, married Matthew Tardugno in August 2012 and completed her MSN in May 2013.



Alumni PATHWAYS Continued

CLASS OF 2008

Jessica Purser Baucom (NUR), welcomed daughter Finley, born June 2012.

Erin Cauble (ST) is now married and a new mother.

CLASS OF 2009

Ashanti Ferguson (NUR) started her master's program online through Johns Hopkins as of fall 2013.

Stacey Sheasby Holman (NUR)

Stacey has moved into a project management position at Levine Cancer Institute. She will develop and implement a standardized orientation for oncology nurses.



Frances Sanford (NSG) married Eric Placock in April 2013. Fellow classmates Patti Reese and Sarah Riley joined in the celebration.

Amanda Taylor Whitaker (RT) and husband JD welcomed son Easton in August 2013. Amanda works at Morrocroft Urgent Care in the South Park area of Charlotte.

CLASS OF 2010

Zoe Anderson (NUR) married Phillip Cowles in May 2012 and works on the pediatric progressive care unit at Levine Children's Hospital. Zoe received her certification in pediatric nursing in February and her BSN in May of 2013.

Stephanie Dunlap (ST) and husband David recently welcomed their fourth child, Paisley Ella, born November 2013.

Van Le (NUR) married Michael Sullivan in August 2013 and will start her MSN program at Queens University in January 2014. She works at Carolinas Medical Center and hopes to become a clinical nurse leader after graduation.

Gretchen Hartmann Willis (NUR) married in 2010. She is a pediatric nurse at The Betty H. Cameron Women's and Children's Hospital of New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington, NC. Daughter Maggie was born September 2013.



Rylee Williams

Casey Westbrook Williams (NUR) and husband Jason welcomed daughter Rylee MacLaine in May 2013.

CLASS OF 2011

Tiffany Drennan (NUR) welcomed daughter Kaelyn Grace in October 2012.

Kelly Jones Phillips, (ST) completed the physician's assistant program at Wingate University in December 2013.

Kayla Simpson (NUR) married Andres Sing in November 2012. She received her bachelor's degree in December 2012 from UNC Charlotte and works at CMC-Randolph.

Whitney White (NUR) married Travis Walls in October 2013.

CLASS OF 2012

Haley Lail (ST) and husband welcomed a baby boy in 2013.

Kim Sheldon (NUR) moved to Boulder City, Nevada and is working at Banner Churchill Community Hospital.

CLASS OF 2013

Jeanette Atherley (NUR) moved back to her native New York after graduation. She is currently enrolled in the RN-to-BSN program at Adelphi University with an anticipated graduation date of summer 2014.

Elizabeth Kraft Webb (NUR) got married, moved to Chapel Hill and works at the NC Children's Hospital.

Drew Bolyard (NUR) and family re-connected with faculty member and former neighbor Sara Masters at the Masters' retreat, Thistledown on Yellow Mountain, in Minneapolis, NC in July.



UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS:

April 7-9: Annual Alumni Phone-a-thon
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

April 15: Distinguished Alumnus Nominations Due

April 25: Alumni Spring Get Together
6:30 p.m. hosted by Lee Abbott (NUR '63)

May 1: Capping Ceremony

May 2: Graduation, 7:00 p.m. at Pritchard Memorial Baptist Church

May 2-3: 50th, 60th and 70th Reunion Celebrations for the Classes of 1944, 1954 and 1964

May 27: Alumni Association Meeting
6:30 p.m. at CCHS – If you'd like, bring along new unwrapped toys to donate to the Levine Children's Hospital Toy Chest.

August 26: Alumni Association Meeting
6:30 p.m. at CCHS – If you'd like, bring along school supplies for the annual School Tools Campaign to benefit Classroom Central.

October 16: Scholarship Reception
Reception for scholarship donors to meet scholars—by invitation

November 18: Alumni Association Meeting
6:30 p.m. at CCHS – If you'd like, bring along stocking stuffers for children ages 9-11 to benefit The Salvation Army.

December 12: Graduation



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