ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Message from the President

As we begin the new year, I hope you all had an opportunity to enjoy a festive holiday season, and that 2018 brings you joy, happiness, and good health! It is hard to believe that another year has passed, and it is already February! Columbia College of Nursing (CCON) has continued to make tremendous progress. We are transitioning from the traditional paper newsletter to an online version. This change will save thousands of dollars, and it will make the newsletter available to anyone visiting our website. Following is an update on what has happened during this past year.

As you probably remember, CCON has become part of the Ascension WI ministry. Ascension WI has become a united ministry, bringing Columbia St. Mary’s, Wheaton Franciscan, Infinity Health, and Ministry Health together. Ascension WI has 23 hospitals, more than 120 clinics, and one College! Over the past 18 months, I have served as Vice President of Education for Ascension WI, while continuing as President and Dean of CCON. Also during this time, we underwent an unsuccessful Dean search. Ascension WI is in the process of merging with the Ascension Michigan markets to become a regional ministry. I have decided to step away from the Vice President of Education role, and I will be focusing on the needs of the College.

As part of the Ascension WI transition, there will be new naming conventions for the hospitals and the College. CCON will transition to Ascension Columbia College of Nursing this Spring. We believe this new identity may help to bring greater visibility to the College.

In addition to the name change for the College, we are in the process of updating our website. It will have a completely new look and feel. We are also in the process of trying to develop a branding campaign, in an effort to increase name recognition and enrollments. Please plan to check out our new website in late April or early May.

In May of 2017, the Alumni Association hosted its Annual Banquet at the Holiday Inn in Glendale (formerly the Hilton Hotel). Attendance was great. The food was very good and conversation was lively. Many alumni visited and toured CCON. We also had 27 alums attend the Golden Circle Luncheon. It’s always fun to hear all the stories. We’re looking forward to the 2018 Banquet and Golden Circle Luncheon. We are changing locations this year. These events will be held at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel in Brown Deer, WI. We hope you are planning to attend!

During the past year, we had successful accreditation visits by the Higher Learning Commission for our new fully online BSN Completion Program. This program will allow RNs with associate degrees or diploma degrees to complete their BSN in less than 12 months. We plan to admit our first cohort of students in July of 2018. We have also admitted our second cohort of MSN students. They are making great progress, and they should graduate in December.

Last May and June, two groups of students participated in medical mission trips. Kim Schuster and I took a group to New Orleans. On this trip, we worked with the homeless and underserved, providing blood pressure screening, health education, and foot washings. We also had an opportunity to feed the homeless at one of the homeless shelters. I also took a group of students to Nicaragua. We worked with nurse practitioner students to provide health screenings and treatment for hundreds of patients in some of the poorest, underserved communities in Nicaragua. The students had amazing experiences and made significant impacts on the lives of those we served. These trips will be repeated in May and June of this year as well.

As we move forward, there are endless opportunities for you to support the College. Scholarship money is more necessary than ever. Our simulation laboratory is an exciting part of the College, and we plan to add additional simulation mannequins. We are also planning to update some of our classrooms. Last year, we hit a new high for contributions to the College. I’d like to thank all of you who helped to make this possible. We were able to provide a record number of scholarships to help make a nursing education more affordable for our students. Please consider donating to a scholarship fund or to educational equipment and software. Your support would go a long way! Any contributions, large or small, are always appreciated!

I am so happy to be a part of CCON, and the long tradition of excellence is alive and well! I feel very blessed to be here, and I am proud to tell you that I think Columbia College of Nursing has one of the finest groups of faculty and staff I have ever had the privilege to work with. They work very hard, strive for excellence, and provide an exceptional educational experience for our students.

I hope you have enjoyed this edition of the newsletter. I hope your memories of your days at CCON bring you joy and comfort. We are very proud of all of you! We are busy preparing for the 2018 Golden Circle Luncheon! I know the Alumni Association also has been busy planning for the Annual Alumni Dinner. We look forward to seeing a number of you there! I hope that your CCON education has made a difference in your life. You have made a difference in our lives!

Best regards,

Jill M. Berg, PhD, RN, FAHA, FAAN
President and Dean, CCON
Vice President of Education, Ascension WI
The mind is a powerful thing. It has the capability to recount countless of memories we have enjoyed over the course of our lives. Some memories are good, some sad, but most of the time it reminds us of an experience that has shaped our lives. Over the past 25 years I have had the pleasure of meeting so many alumni that have shared with me their memories of nursing school. Alumni share stories of dorm life, clinical time and the lifelong friendships that they have maintained over the years. How many years? For some over 50 years. Each year we celebrate the 50th anniversary-Golden Circle at the Alumni Banquet. This year we will be honoring the class of 1968; who will be celebrating their 50th anniversary. The stories, the songs, the experiences will be shared at this event. For anyone who is a historian, it’s a must to attend. The stories are so genuine and sincere. This year the Alumni Association will be having a “walk down memory lane” for alumni that are interested in visiting the old dorm. Alumni will have the opportunity to visit the old hallways and classrooms that created so many memories.

Please consider joining us April 27th at our annual Alumni Banquet and reminisce about the good ole’ days. Also consider honoring an alumnus with the Hall of Fame award or Humanitarian award. These awards showcase amazing achievements that our alumni have done. We will also be presenting two scholarships to an alum or current student of Columbia College of Nursing.

When I searched the web for ways to strengthen your brain, one exercise recommended was break the routine of your life to stimulate new parts of your brain by joining a new group or trying something new. So let’s try to better our minds and attend the Alumni Banquet especially if this is new to you. Hope to see you there!

If you are interested in joining the Alumni Association or have questions regarding our role within the college, email btblair@wi.rr.com, Tracy Blair, CCON Alumni Association President.
2018 Alumni Banquet

Friday, April 27, 2018

Four Points by Sheraton
Milwaukee North Shore
8900 North Kildeer Court
Brown Deer, WI 53209

There will be a tour of the “old dorm” on Saturday, April 28, 2018, at 10 a.m. Bring pictures and stories to share.

(Invitations will be mailed.)
Golden Circle Luncheon

Friday, April 27, 2018

honoring the

Class of 1968

Four Points by Sheraton
Milwaukee North Shore
8900 North Kildeer Court
Brown Deer, WI 53209

(Invitations will be mailed.)
Dean Jill Berg hosted a luncheon May 5, 2017, in honor of the Class of 1967. The following alumni were induced into the Golden Circle Society which was established in 1992 to recognize Columbia graduates of 50 or more years.

Kathleen Admunson  Kathlene Domurath  Connie Jasen  Jean Oesau
Jean Baesemann  Laurel Dobberfuhl  Karen Jensen  Sharon Olmstead
Karen Barthel  Kathleen Enk  Mary Keen  Christine Petroff
Carol Beckman  Arloa Evans  Kathryn Kochan  Linda Priebe
Judith Belling  Eileen Gail  Nancy Kopka  Patsey Robertson
Elsa Bell  Sandra Gissal  Anna Kramer  Judith Seidenschnur
Naomi Bruesehoff  Laura Glegg  Carolyn Kuzdas  Margaret Sholta
Sten Cantwell  Jean Grimm  Caryle Leska  Sharon Smith
Laura Clegg  Lili Hatzenbuhler  Barbara Mattner  Shirlee Snyder
Lorna Cline  Yvonne Hodorowski  Clara Nettesheim  Dianne Strelow
Linda DiBona  Alida Isaacson  Patricia Nowick  Ann Williams
Nominations are being accepted for the 2018 Hall of Fame and Marjorie Wolff German Humanitarian Awards. If you know someone (or yourself) deserving recognition for contributions made to the nursing profession, the College, or the community, please nominate them for one or both of the awards.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Hall of Fame Award</strong></td>
<td>Recognizes professional and personal excellence in the practice of nursing by a Columbia College of Nursing alumnus.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Marjorie Wolff German Humanitarian Award</strong></td>
<td>Recognizes the humanitarian and philanthropic activities of a Columbia College of Nursing alumnus.</td>
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For additional information, please contact Gail Peterson at gpeterso@ccon.edu or 414.326.2303.

**Application deadline:** March 24, 2018
The Vera Orth Scholarship Award

*Can Be Yours!* 

The Columbia College of Nursing Alumni Association offers the Vera Orth Scholarship to a current CCON student (Senior 1 or Senior 2) or alum who is pursuing a master’s or doctorate degree in nursing. The $500 scholarship will be awarded at the Alumni Banquet scheduled for April 27, 2018. **Attendance at the Alumni Banquet is required.**

For additional information, please contact Gail Peterson at gpeterso@ccon.edu or 414.326.2303.

**Application deadline: March 24, 2018**
2017 Vera Orth Scholarship Award Recipient

Awarded to a student who will earn a Baccalaureate Degree from the Columbia College of Nursing Program.

Caeli Jennings graduated from Columbia College of Nursing December 2017. She is currently working as a Patient Care Technician at Columbia St. Mary’s in the Mom/Baby Unit.

Affiliations

- Student Nurses Association
  - Senior 1 Level Representative (January 2016-January 2017)
  - President, Student Nurses Association (January 2017-Present)
- Columbia College of Nursing
  - Study Abroad-Kenya, Africa—Observational study program
- University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
  - Study Abroad-Kenya, Africa—Research Assistant for HIV study in rural communities

College and Community Service/Volunteerism

- Mentor, Big Brother Big Sister Program
- Volunteer, Hunger Task Force
- Volunteer, The Gathering Soup Kitchen
- Volunteer, Ronald McDonald House
- Volunteer, Girls on the Run Program
2017 Vera Orth Scholarship Award Recipient

Awarded to a student who will earn a Baccalaureate Degree from the Columbia College of Nursing Program.

Bethany Wandsnider graduated from Columbia College of Nursing May 2017. She started as a full time RN in the NICU at Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin in September, 2017.

Affiliations

- Member, National Student Nurses Association
- Member, Wisconsin Student Nurses Association
- Senior 2 Student Nurses Association Level Representative
- Student Representative, CCON Mission/Vision Sub-Committee
- The Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International
- Children’s Advocacy Network, Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin

College and Community Service/Volunteerism

- Chair, winter clothing, toiletry, non-perishable food drives
- Chair, Mission Week—Spring 2016
- Organizational Committee, MS Awareness Benefit—Fall 2016
- Friedan’s Community Shelter—Fall 2015
- Member, Spring Creek Church, Pewaukee, WI

Ms. Wandsnider enjoys singing, crafting, spending time outdoors, and traveling.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Alyssa Bober</td>
<td>Megan Kern</td>
<td>Stephanie Ross</td>
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<td>Shane Bunek</td>
<td>Katelin Kumbier</td>
<td>Kayla Sallinger</td>
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<td>Madelyne Canzoneri</td>
<td>Randi Levendusky</td>
<td>Miranda Schmoker</td>
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<td>Kailee Childers</td>
<td>Branka Lugonja</td>
<td>Kelly Schroeder</td>
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<td>Emily Czerniak</td>
<td>Blake Marrari</td>
<td>Nicole Severin</td>
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<td>Emily DesJardins</td>
<td>Leah Martin</td>
<td>Ashley Syse</td>
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<td>Chris DuBois</td>
<td>Kaley McDonnell</td>
<td>Melissa Theisen</td>
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<td>Bridget Flynn</td>
<td>Carla Melo-Sigala</td>
<td>Amanda VanDoorn</td>
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<td>Luz Garcia-Wright</td>
<td>Jessica Mendez</td>
<td>Bethany Wandsnider</td>
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<td>Morgan Gundrum</td>
<td>Rachael Millner</td>
<td>Chelsea Wardecke</td>
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<td>Jessie Hoffman</td>
<td>Sarah Neils</td>
<td>Jake Winters</td>
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<td>Rebecca Housey</td>
<td>Alexandra Nye</td>
<td>Lisa Witt</td>
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<td>Michele Houston</td>
<td>Megan Pedretti</td>
<td>Anna Yoder</td>
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<td>Joey Johnson</td>
<td>Stephanie Petersen</td>
<td>Allison Zarr</td>
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<td>Brianna Jackson</td>
<td>Erin Putzier</td>
<td>Cassandra Zenner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alyssa Kaschinske</td>
<td>Jacquelyn Rice</td>
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WORTHY OF MENTION

Stengel (Nevin) Constance (1960)
Retired from nursing at the age of 69 after working 50 years. A very full life in the nursing field. Thanks to Columbia School of Nursing.

Rockteacher (Wegner) Nichole (1999)
Working in the Orthopaedic Surgery Center as a circulating nurse along with roles as nurse educator and osha safety officer. Acquired position as occupational health nurse in clinic at Orthopaedic Associates of Wisconsin—attached to surgery center in 2015.

Skora (Day) Jessie (1961)
Became Nokomis Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Chapter Regent.

In Memoriam

Nedoss (Ellarson), Carol (‘55) passed away November 27, 2017
2017 GOLDEN CIRCLE LUNCHEON
2017 ALUMNI BANQUET
HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

President's Circle
$50,000 and above

None

Nightingale Society
$1,000—$49,999

Dr. Jill Berg
Dr./Mrs. Matthew Connolly
Ms. Maryann Crissey
Ms. Karen A. Jensen
Mr./Mrs. Richard Kimball
Ms. Jill Pelisek
Mr./Mrs. Thomas Phillips
Mr./Mrs. Thomas Schmid
Ms. Elaine Marshall
Mr./Mrs. Bruce McDonald

Columbia Society
$500—$999

Mr. Curtis DuBois
Dr. Gary Gerschke
Mr. Gregory Hartzog
Mr./Mrs. Jerry Vite

Lamplight Society
$250—$499

JayKay Foundation

Your gift, in any amount, will help students fulfill their dreams of becoming a nurse. Your support of Columbia College of Nursing helps enable us to transform lives and make a profound impact on society. Today, your support is even more critical so that funding for scholarships and other initiatives will continue.
Alumni Association Council

The Alumni Association of Columbia College of Nursing actively serves the College community and alumni past to present, including graduates of Knowlton Hospital and Training School and Columbia Hospital School of Nursing alumni. The following alumni are serving on the CCON Alumni Council:

- Tracy (Tower) Blair ‘90—President/Treasurer
- Norma (Sarg) Benz ’63—Secretary
- Joy (Aldrich) ‘63
- Baiba (Blats) Hartmann ‘63
- Joy (Burmeister) Kalt ‘73
- Judy (Meyer) Spencer ‘66
- Corrinne Strandell ‘61

CCON Contact Information

**Academic Affairs/Transcripts**  
Christina Johnson, Academic Advisor/Registrar  
414.326.2336  
christina.johnson@ccon.edu

**Scholarship/Address updates**  
Gail Peterson, Executive Assistant  
414.326.2303  
gpeterso@ccon.edu

**Website requests/questions**  
Keith Jackson, Learning Resources Coordinator  
414.326.2335  
kjackson@ccon.edu
Please keep us informed of what’s new in your life. Have you recently moved, been married, had a child, or started a new job? We want to know! Complete this form and mail it to: Columbia College of Nursing, Attention: Gail Peterson, 4425 North Port Washington Road, Glendale, WI 53212 or go to www.ccon.edu and click on Alumni, then click on the Alumni Address and Information Update link. (2018)

First Name: ______________________________ MI: _____ Last Name: ______________________________

Maiden Name: _____________________________

Year of Graduation: ______________ Degree: ___________________ Diploma: ___________________

Address: ___________________________________________________________________________________

City: ________________________________________ State: __________________ Zip: ________________

Home Phone: ___________________________ E–mail Address: _________________________________

Employer: __________________________________ Position: __________________ Year Hired: _________

Spouse’s Name: ______________________________

Children’s Name and Date of Birth:

Name: _____________________________________________________ Born: __________________________

Name: _____________________________________________________ Born: __________________________

Name: _____________________________________________________ Born: __________________________

Personal News/Professional News (This will be listed in the next Alumni Newsletter’s “Worthy of Mention” section.)

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