

BLESSING-RIEMAN

College of Nursing & Health Sciences

The background features a large, faint, light blue circular seal. The seal has a scalloped outer edge. Inside the seal, the text "BLESSING-RIEMAN COLLEGE" is written along the top arc, and "NURSING & HEALTH SCIENCES" along the bottom arc. In the center of the seal, the Latin phrase "Nobis Solum" is written in a cursive script.

Alumni & Friends Newsletter

Summer 2018 Edition



Lacey Petersen

BNAA President

Greetings from the Blessing Nurses Alumni Association! We had a wonderful Alumni Banquet to celebrate alumni on Saturday, April 28th at the Holiday Inn in Quincy, IL. Tony's Too catered a delicious meal for all to enjoy. The Alumni Association is truly thankful for all those who were able to attend the event and those who volunteered in any way to make the evening a success. We are also sincerely grateful to those members who could not attend the banquet but paid their annual dues, and also to those members who sent in additional monetary donations. We truly appreciate you and your contributions. It is with your help that the Alumni Association is able to continue to provide scholarships to students and educational programs for healthcare professionals. We had more than 120 people register for and attend the banquet this year. We were ecstatic to meet and celebrate with the esteemed members from the 50-year class and to learn of their personal and professional accomplishments! A special thank you to Dr. Karen Mayville who graciously prepared a presentation to honor the class. We also want to congratulate Mrs. Ellen Plowman on winning the Nurse of the Year award for her contributions and lasting legacy to the profession of nursing. We were honored to have her family there to celebrate and to speak about her and this remarkable achievement. Lastly, we were excited to induct the 2018 class as alumni! We were able to induct 53 baccalaureate graduates into the BNAA! The alumni members in attendance at the banquet voted for new Officers and Board Members. The elected members and their new positions will be: Becky White-President Elect, Josh Pitcher-Treasurer, and Board Members-Erika Knuffman, Joanne Reichert, and Joan Ruhs. We are very excited to have a diverse and engaged board for the Alumni Association. We are also excited to serve you in the coming year. I personally want to thank each member who renews their dues and volunteers their time to help serve the Alumni Association in any capacity. This year, the Alumni Association served as greeters at the Commencement Ceremony for the class of 2018. There were 63 nursing and respiratory therapy graduates honored at the ceremony. I want to recognize Becky Campbell and Joanne Reichert for volunteering to assist at the ceremony and for representing the Alumni Association at such a well-attended and joyous event! The graduates, their families, and the College are thankful and appreciative! At this time, I would like to remind you that it is not too late to pay your alumni dues if you have not done so already. The cost to be a paid member is \$15.00. In this newsletter you will find a form to complete and send in along with your payment. Your membership will last from May 2018 to May 2019. Any dues sent after December of 2018 will be used for the 2019-2020 year. This money is used to pay for activities such as pizza parties for Blessing students, graduation, Explore Nursing summer recruitment camps, sponsoring educational opportunities for alumni and students, and providing donations to organizations such as the Caring Club and Life Team. We are hopeful that we will have another successful membership drive this year, and the alumni board is actively trying and seeking new ideas and opportunities to recruit paid members. In September, we will be welcoming back our nursing students with a pizza party, alumni networking event, and the last alumni meeting for 2018. Please consider joining us on Thursday, September 13th from 5-6 pm at the College of Nursing in Room 142 to meet and network with our students! Please RSVP by contacting Karen Peter at kpeter@brcn.edu or 217-228-5520 ext. 6905. We also invite you to join our newly developed Facebook group to stay up to date with alumni information and events! Lastly, we are always looking for new ways to engage alumni members, promote the Alumni Association, and provide valuable activities for each of you. I would invite any creative ideas and suggestions that you may have. Please send me an email and help us brainstorm!

Sincerely,

Lacey Petersen, MSN, RN, Alumni President
217-228-5520 ext. 6951, lpetersen@brcn.edu



1939 Graduate Turns 100



Pearl Doscher grew up in Ewing, MO, and graduated from Blessing Hospital in 1939. She worked there until she married Jim Phillips and moved to California. Pearl turned 100 years old on June 23, 2018. She lives in assisted care in Warrensburg, MO. She still talks about nursing school at Blessing Hospital and still has her nursing cap.



Alumni Banquet 2018



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 20th

Classes begin

October 7th

Teddy Bear Clinic

August 29th

Commitment to Care

October 26th

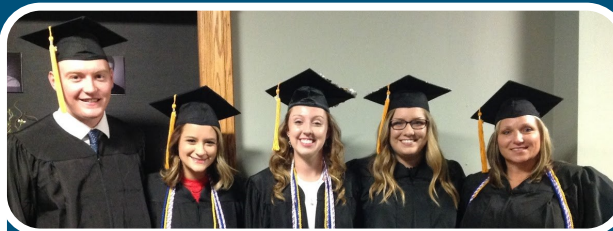
Research Day

September 13th

Alumni Meeting

December 14th

Graduation



Graduation—May 2018



Become a Member



BLESSING NURSES ***Alumni Association***

History of BNAA

The Blessing Nurses Alumni Association was established in 1900. It was formed to help graduates in need, to uphold a code of ethics, to promote the high standards of nursing, and to encourage fellowship among the members. The Blessing Hospital Alumni Association joined the National Association of Graduate Nurses, which became the American Nurses Association. A register of graduates was kept in the hospital office for private duty purposes. The 1909 Annual Report began listing the graduates and the position they held. Several were employed at the Soldier's and Sailor's Home, Woodland Home, and the Visiting Nurse Association. (*Nursing in Quincy 1894-1994, A Historical Perspective*, by Arlis Dittmer, M.A., M.A.L.S.)



Blessing Nurses Alumni Association Membership Application/Renewal Form 2018-2019

Name _____
First Last Maiden

Address _____
Street City State Zip

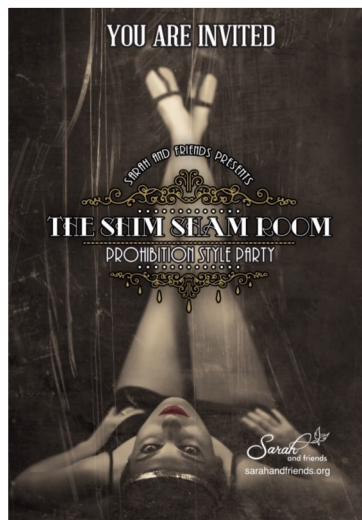
Cell Phone _____ Home Phone _____

Email Address _____ Graduation Year _____

If you are interested in becoming a BNAA member, please complete the form above and mail along
with your **\$15 check for membership dues** to:

Blessing Nurses Alumni Association c/o Jenna Crabtree
Broadway at 11th Street, PO Box 7005, Quincy, IL 62305

Two Blessing Nursing Students to Receive Sarah & Friends Scholarship



The 2018 Sarah & Friends fundraising gala in Quincy will help further the education of two Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing & Health Sciences students. The students will receive scholarships from the proceeds of the annual fundraiser.

Sarah & Friends is an organization founded in memory of Sarah Christine Birsic, who lost her life in 2012 as the result of a tragic accident. The goal of the organization, founded by her parents, Dr. William and Kathleen Birsic and Sarah's friends, is to support young women in need and help them reach their full potential.

"We are incredibly honored to be chosen by the Sarah & Friends organization," said Brenda Beshears, PhD, RN, President and Chief Executive Officer, Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing & Health

Sciences. "Our students are blessed to be part of this community, one that recognizes the need of young women attending college to better their futures."

This year's Sarah & Friends gala will be held on Saturday, September 15, 2018. Titled "The Shim Sham Room: A Speakeasy Fundraising Event," it will be held at the Stock House at Dick Brothers Brewery, 929 York Street, Quincy. The event will feature a lively Prohibition theme, heavy hors d'oeuvres, and a live band, The Chicago Cellar Boys. A cash bar with signature cocktails will be available, and a live auction will be held.

Attendees are encouraged to dress in the style of the Prohibition era, but it is not required.

Cost is \$65 per person. Reservations will be available online starting Wednesday, August 1st at DickBrothersBrewery.com



RSVP

Please join us on

Saturday, September 15, 2018

The Stock House at Dick Brothers Brewery
929 York Street, Quincy, Illinois

Reservations also taken at @ www.DickBrothersBrewery.com

\$65 per person

Name(s) _____

Number of guests _____

____ Accepts

____ Regretfully cannot attend but would
like to make a donation \$ _____

Please make checks to "Sarah and Friends"

Hurdland Woman Named Nurse of the Year by Blessing Alumni Association

Esther (Scheuermann) Plowman of Hurdland was named the Blessing Nurses Alumni Association Nurse of the Year at the organization's annual banquet. Plowman is a graduate of the Blessing Hospital School of Nursing Class of 1959. She was nominated for the award by three fellow class members.

After graduation, Plowman worked at Blessing Hospital for two years and then at the hospital in Carthage, IL, until 1979. In 1979, she and her husband moved to Knox County, MO, where Plowman led the formation of the Knox County Health Department.

Her nomination stated, in part, "Esther has undoubtedly left a lasting legacy, surpassing no other individual who has ever been employed by the Knox County Health Department."

During her career, Plowman was also employed by the Mark Twain Behavioral Health Board where she covered nine counties in northeast Missouri. While there, she received a certificate of appreciation for instituting the Missouri Swine Flu program. She was on the Northeast Missouri Caring Committee as a board member and was the Truman State University Nurse Mentor in 1998-1999.

EXPLORE NURSING

BRCN hosted two Explore Nursing day camps this summer for high school students from 15 to 17 years of age. A total of 24 students participated this year—12 on June 12th and 12 on June 29th.

Activities included:

injection practice ▪ blood pressure practice ▪ simulator experience

The students also spent part of the day job shadowing in several units around the hospital including Medical/Surgical, Emergency, Cardiovascular, Blessed Beginnings, and Intensive Care.

June
12th



June
29th



BLESSING-RIEMAN WINS VENTILATOR

The luck of the draw is helping Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing & Health Sciences students be better prepared to care for the youngest patients.

Mark Lotz, Program Director, Blessing-Rieman Respiratory Care program, won a special ventilator while attending the 2018 American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC) World Congress. Lotz was selected as the recipient of a Drager Babylog VN500 neonatal ventilator in a random drawing. The ventilator is used to help premature babies breathe. It is valued at \$12,500.



“These ventilators are so expensive that most respiratory care education programs cannot afford to buy them,” said Lotz.

Drager Inc. holds the drawing for a ventilator to be donated to respiratory care programs during the AARC education section meeting so that students can get hands-on experience with the equipment.

The Drager Babylog VN500 is capable of providing the latest modes of ventilation to even the smallest and most critically ill neonate. It will allow the Blessing-Rieman’s respiratory care students to practice adjusting settings and try different breathing modes in order to prepare them to participate in Neonatal Intensive Care Unit clinical experiences. In addition, nursing students will be able to participate in simulations designed to help them understand and be comfortable with the care necessary for individuals on a ventilator.

“One of the reasons so many premature babies survive today is because of the development of these ventilators which are used to support respiration until the baby’s lungs are developed enough to allow normal breathing,” observed Lotz. “The reason neonatal ventilators are so important is because premature babies have very small lungs that can easily be damaged by pressure of ventilators designed for adults.”

Respiratory therapists care for patients who have trouble breathing—for example, from a chronic respiratory disease, such as asthma or emphysema. Their patients range from premature infants with undeveloped lungs to elderly patients who have diseased lungs. They also provide emergency care to patients suffering from heart attacks, drowning, or shock.

Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing & Health Sciences offers an Associate of Science in Respiratory Care degree program. More information on the program is available by calling the Admissions Office at 1-800-877-9140.

COMMENCEMENT

MAY 11, 2018



Master of Science in Nursing

Michelle Denise Bishop
Lindsey Lillard
Sara Wilcox
Shanna D. Winter

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Nicole Marie Allaria
Ashley Marie Ayo
Madeline Rose Bickhaus
Eleanor Claire Bocke
Chloe Boone
Chevie Bryson
Marisa Burdess
Abigail Burton
Carlie Christine Cadieu
Jennifer Kathryn Cange
Tanner David Charron
Nikki Clatt
Abigail Conn

Gussie Conoyer
Carl Crowder
Eric Neil Davidson
Madisyn Days
Christopher Doellman
Jordan MacKenzie Enzwiler
Courteney Paige Fancher
Mariah Elise Fessler
Jennifer M. Frame
Kristin Hampton
Kathleen Heiligenstein
Edward Herlihy
Kathleen Elizabeth Hull
Bowen Juette
Riley Keleher
Kassandra Kenlon
Shayna Anne Lowry
Courtney Ann Massner
Kristy L. May
Destiny Rae Miller
Leah Miller
Chelsea Nguyen
Shaila O'Dear
Michael Wyatt Overstreet

Jessica Pilant
Sarah Nicole Plant
Amanda Lynette Power
Juliann Pryor
Meghan Quirk
Lindsay Catherine Ratermann
Olivia Brooke Reichert
Shelby A. Renner
Lauren Marie Rush
Danyel Schaffer-Damon
Jessica Schindler
Owen Schoenenberger
Nicol Elizabeth Schultes
Caitlyn Elizabeth Seyer
Michelle L. Smith
Rachael Sommers
Macy May Waterkotte
Leslie Zykan

Associate of Science in Respiratory Care

Kimberly Hiatt
Teddie Neil

Congratulations to our graduates!

FACULTY NEWS

An article written by **Deborah Race**, Associate Professor, and Margaret Williams was published in the February 2018 issue of *CIN Plus*. The article is titled “Digital Audio Feedback Technology: Nursing Students’ Perspectives.” Their research was based on use of audio feedback in a clinical group of junior nursing students and a research theory course at BRCN.



Kimi Yuchs, Assistant Professor, presented at the 24th Annual Nursing Research Conference: Old Problems-New Evidence at Memorial Medical Center in Springfield, IL, on March 26, 2018. She did a podium presentation on her doctoral work titled *Caring for the Poor: Analysis of Nurses’ Attitudes Toward Patients from the Culture of Poverty*. She is a DNP student at the University of Southern Indiana.



Linda Burke, Assistant Professor, **Susan McReynolds**, Assistant Professor, **Marianne Schmitt**, Assistant Professor, and **Lori Sprenger**, Associate Professor, accompanied 23 students on an experiential learning trip to the Dominican Republic in March 2018. Among other things, the group visited a children’s hospital and a physical rehabilitation center, talked with students at the Nursing Technical School of San José de Ocoa, visited a school for children with special needs and played with the children, interacted with the residents at the Elder Home in San José de Ocoa, brought gifts to and spent quality time with the children at a girls’ orphanage in Baní, toured the San José de Ocoa Hospital where they had the opportunity to ask questions about what it is like being a nurse in the Dominican Republic, and worked in a rural clinic where they measured height, weight, and blood pressures and checked blood glucose levels.





SNO Blood Drive

77 pints were donated!

STUDENT NEWS



Family Fit Night

Camping was the theme of this year's Family Fit Night, which 146 people attended. The tag line for the event was "Learn S'more About Health." The students created booths about nutrition, physical activity, handwashing, creative play (which included camping games), dental health, outdoor safety (sun, bugs, etc.), therapeutic play, and fire safety.



Spring Leadership Conference

The Student Nurses Association of Illinois (SNAI) held its Spring Leadership Conference at Chamberlain College of Nursing in Chicago, IL. Some students from BRCN joined other nursing students from around the state at this event. The theme of the conference was "Mission: It's Possible." Three speakers discussed the steps that led them to where they are now in their nursing careers, the challenges they overcame along the way, and the importance of not giving up on your goals.

Following the speakers' presentations, the students participated in breakout sessions with the opportunity to discuss different topics related to nursing and their educational programs. They were also able to ask questions and offer suggestions to one another.

Illinois Lobby Day

Many students from BRCN attended Illinois Lobby Day in Springfield, IL. They listened to speakers discuss nursing challenges, law proposals, and making your voice heard. The students also participated in a march to the Capitol.



Sixth Annual Daisy Awards

Novice Daisy Faculty Award

Erika Knuffman, BSN, RN, Clinical Preceptor

Erika is an excellent Clinical Preceptor. She is laid back, but she knows how to question students in an effective way. Her feedback on care plans is very helpful. She is great at encouraging and motivating students.

As a new preceptor at Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing and Health Sciences, Erika showed a desire to learn as an educator. She was never afraid to ask questions or seek assistance. She survived and surpassed expectations, more than what she thought. Erika has transitioned into her new role extremely well. She works very hard to make sure her students are held to a high standard in clinical while still being able to connect with them on a personal level to facilitate their learning and growth in the clinical setting. Erika coaches her students to succeed and works very hard to make sure they are prepared for the next clinical they will be entering.

Erika radiates her knowledge and her smile among the students and nursing staff on the unit. She cares for the patient, expecting the care of the student to surpass expectations. She holds high standards, professionally and academically. Students know this, but they also know they can trust her. She has helped several students along the way in their personal lives to become better individuals, whether in accountability, knowledge demonstration, or time management. Erika has a bright future as an educator ahead of her.



Daisy Faculty Award

Lacey Petersen, MSN, RN, Assistant Professor

Lacey is an amazing Assistant Professor and a huge asset to Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing & Health Sciences. Lacey goes above and beyond for her students. She is always available and willing to assist her students in any way she can to enhance their studying skills, test-taking skills, and clinical reasoning.

Lacey's relationship with her students is phenomenal. She is encouraging, easy to talk to, and always there for her students. Her door is always open. She treats students like family and wants them to be confident and successful.

Lacey does an exceptional job of bringing clinical examples into the classroom setting. She also works diligently every semester to improve her courses and to create unique assignments that make difficult concepts more manageable for her students. Furthermore, she is always looking for ways to incorporate active learning strategies into her everyday lecture to enhance understanding and comprehension by her students while having some fun in the classroom. A truly unique characteristic of Lacey's teaching style is her ability to challenge students and maintain high standards in a way that the students are receptive to and appreciate.



ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

Please share your news, accomplishments, marriage, births, etc. for the newsletter. Don't forget address changes so the newsletter can keep up with you! Mail to Blessing-Rieman College Attn: Jenna Crabtree, Broadway at 11th Street, PO Box 7005, Quincy, IL 62305 or email jcrabtree@brcn.edu.

Ramona F. Brown Spears '50, of Bloomington, passed away on Wednesday, January 17, 2018.

Hazel V. Mills '47, of Quincy, passed away on Sunday, May 13, 2018, at Sunset Home.

Alumni News & Notes

___ New Address ___ Name Change Email Address: _____

Name: _____
 First Last Grad Name Grad Year

Address: _____
 Street City State Zip

Phone: (____) _____ Employer: _____

NEWS & NOTES...

The Giving Society

Donations listed in this issue of the Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing & Health Sciences Alumni Newsletter reflect gifts from January 1, 2018 through June 30, 2018.

Blessing Nurses Alumni Association Scholarship Fund

In Memory of Ruth M. Fjelstad
Karen Fjelstad Hardy

Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing & Health Sciences

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Draeger, Inc.
Historical Society of Quincy and
Adams County
Holiday Inn Quincy / Tony's Too
Restaurant
IHOP Employees
Elliot H. Kuida
Dr. Stephen T. Liesen
Sarah M. LoBue
Michael Shepherd
Village Inn Restaurant
Quality Inn and Suites

In Memory of Margie E. Elliott
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John and Tammy Rupp

In Memory of Richard A. Liebig
Dr. Peter and Mary Leffman

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Jeannie Kay
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Nancy Smith
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Randall Stark
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In Memory of Marilyn M. Shepherd
*(Marilyn Murphy Shepherd
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B-RCN & Health Sciences
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*Marilyn Murphy Shepherd
Scholarship Donation*
B-RCN & Health Sciences Faculty
and Staff

In Memory of Lynne V. Trautvetter
(Trautvetter Family Scholarship)
Delma J. Hardy

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Larry and Anita Myers
John and Doris Newman
Gary and Emily Peterson
Dick and Joann Reichert
Dr. Richard and Kim Saalborn
Chellis Walker
James and Ruth Wilson

The Giving Society Continued...

On behalf of the students, faculty, and staff of Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing & Health Sciences and The Blessing Foundation, we would like to sincerely thank each and every one of our donors over the past 125 years. Without you and your generosity, our mission of providing excellence in professional nursing and healthcare career education would not be possible.

If you wish to make a donation by mail, please complete the form below and send along with your check to:

**The Blessing Foundation
1121 Broadway Street
PO Box 7005
Quincy, IL 62305-7005**

Please make checks payable to: **The Blessing Foundation**

You may also make a donation online with a credit card at:

www.blessinghealthsystem.org/donate

Blessing-Rieman College Giving Society

Name _____

If alumni, graduation year _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email address _____

Indicate where donation is to be directed:

Amount of gift: \$_____ (Give \$1 for every year you have been alumni/graduate)

____ Blessing Nurses Alumni Association Scholarship Fund ____ General Endowment Fund

____ Establish New Scholarship Fund (\$5,000 minimum)

____ Direct to the _____ Scholarship

____ Pledge \$____ over ____ year(s) at \$____ per year

Questions? Call The Blessing Foundation at 217-223-8400 ext. 4800 or email Ann Awerkamp Dickson at ann.dickson@blessinghealthsystem.org

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Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing & Health Sciences
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Quincy, IL 62305-7005

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Our Mission

The mission of Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing & Health Sciences is to provide excellence in professional nursing and healthcare career education.

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