

BLESSING-RIEMAN

College of Nursing & Health Sciences



Alumni & Friends Newsletter

Winter 2018 Edition



Lacey Petersen

BNAAPresident

Welcome to 2018!!! I would like to take a brief moment to introduce myself as your new Blessing Nurses Alumni Association (BNAAPresident) for 2018-2019. My name is Lacey Petersen, MSN, RN, and it is truly my honor to be elected to represent the diverse and well-respected nurses of the association. It is also my pleasure to welcome the new alumni association President-Elect Susan Humphreys, Secretary Josey Harris, and board members Susan McReynolds and Danielle Upchurch.

The alumni association supports many valuable activities that make an impact for prospective students, enrolled students, and interdisciplinary healthcare professionals. In the past year, the association co-sponsored the Pi Pi Spring Clinical Program on "Pain Management and the Opioid Crisis," hosted the Alumni Banquet that honored the classes of 1967 and 2017, and provided and served refreshments for the May 2017 graduation. Most recently, the association was a co-sponsor for two overnight Explore Nursing recruitment camps for 27 prospective students, hosted a "Welcome Back" Pizza Party for BRCN students to kick off the 2017-2018 school year, and was a co-sponsor of the 24th Annual Research Day entitled "Perspectives on Holistic Health Care and Outcomes."

Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing & Health Sciences (BRCN) hosted the second annual December Commencement Ceremony for 15 graduates of the nursing program at Madison Park Christian Church on December 15, 2017. We congratulate this wonderful group of graduates and wish them the best in their future endeavors. BRCN has continued to grow and seek opportunities to be the leader in healthcare education for our region. We are proud to say our current enrollment numbers are up to 289, which is an impressive 6.67% increase. Furthermore, BRCN and John Wood Community College (JWCC) signed an agreement in December to combine resources to deliver JWCC's surgical technology degree. In addition, Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing & Health Sciences, in cooperation with The Blessing Foundation, also awarded \$1,078,290 in scholarships and grants to Blessing-Rieman students for the 2017-2018 academic year. It is my pleasure to announce that Juliann Pryor of Plainville, IL, received the Blessing Nurses Alumni Association Scholarship award. The students of BRCN are passionate about pursuing a career in healthcare, and it is exciting to anticipate the imprint they will make in both the nursing profession and the respiratory care profession.

I would like invite you to come to the annual Alumni Banquet being held on Saturday, April 28, 2018, at the Holiday Inn in Quincy, IL. This year, we will be celebrating the classes of 1968 and 2018. This event is an excellent way to learn more about the alumni association and an opportunity to hear updates on the most recent and upcoming College and Blessing Health System happenings. It is also provides the perfect opportunity to reminisce with your classmates, while celebrating the accomplishments of our distinguished guests and all our alumni members. The reservation form with event details is included in this issue. Please submit your reservation to Karen Peter by April 13th. If you are unable to attend the banquet, we have provided an opportunity for you to pay the annual alumni dues and/or contribute to the scholarship fund in this issue. This money is used to support programs that are funded by the Blessing Nurses Alumni Association, such as scholarships for students and educational programs for healthcare professionals. We truly appreciate your consideration to participate in both. The enclosed banquet invitation provides an opportunity to pay your annual dues of \$15 and/or to donate to the Alumni Scholarship fund. We have more than 190 paid Alumni members for 2017 and hope to increase that number in 2018!

Please consider nominating someone for the Nurse of the Year award. The nomination form is included in this issue. The winner of the award will be recognized at the Alumni Banquet in April. Please have all nominations to Jenna Crabtree by April 2, 2018.

Lastly, please continue to visit our Facebook page, visit our website, and watch your email for upcoming meetings and events.

Sincerely,

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



Annual Blessing Nurses Alumni Banquet

Come and celebrate with the classes of 1968 and 2018

When: April 28, 2018

Social Time: 5:30pm ▪ Cash Bar: 5:30-7:30pm ▪ Dinner Buffet: 6:00pm

*Chicken Picatta and Mango Pork Loin, Green Beans, Twice Baked Potato, Salad,
Bread and Lavasch, Dessert, Coffee, Tea, and Water*

Where: Holiday Inn, 4821 Oak Street, Quincy, IL 62305 (Ballroom)

Price: \$27 per person - except 1968 and 2018 graduates are free (guests are not free!)

Reservation deadline: April 13, 2018 - no late reservations please!

Seating will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

Table reservations will be only for the classes of 1968 and 2018.

RSVP - Mail form & check to: BRCN Alumni Banquet

Broadway at 11th Street, PO Box 7005, Quincy, IL 62305

or contact Karen Peter at 217-228-5520 ext. 6905 or by email at kpeter@brcn.edu

Annual Alumni Banquet Reservation Form

Please return by April 13th

Name: _____ Graduation Year: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____ Guest Name: _____

I will be attending and I would like ____ # of meals X \$27.00 = \$ _____

I would like to purchase a meal for a member of the 2018 class at \$27.00 = \$ _____

*2017-18 Alumni Association annual dues of \$15.00 = \$ _____

(*We need your support to be able to offer educational programs and assist students.)

*I would like to make a donation to the Alumni Scholarship Fund = \$ _____

(*A donation to this scholarship is a gift to the Alumni Association, not the College.)

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: Blessing Nurses Alumni Association

For any questions about the Blessing Nurses Alumni Banquet, please contact:

Lacey Petersen, Alumni President

217-228-5520 ext. 6951, lpetersen@brcn.edu

Blessing-Rieman & John Wood Combine Resources to Deliver Surgical Technology Degree

John Wood Community College (JWCC) and Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing & Health Sciences (BRCN) signed an agreement to combine resources to deliver JWCC's surgical technology degree. The agreement between the institutions will expand the program's resources to provide the tristate area with surgical technologists.

"Our goal is to provide as many healthcare professionals in a wide range of career paths for the region without duplicating services," said Michael Elbe, president of John Wood Community College. "This agreement makes the best use of private and public community resources and maintains the access and value students expect from John Wood. Blessing-Rieman's continued partnership is key to helping students find their specific path in the healthcare field, and we are grateful for their support."

The agreement goes into effect in the spring of 2018 and states that all JWCC students pursuing a surgical technology degree will take all general education and pre-requisite courses at JWCC. Students will receive the second year of instruction through an agreement with BRCN at their facilities, including multi-million dollar simulation and lab facilities to earn an associate in applied science degree in surgical technology from JWCC.

Surgical technologists work in many areas of healthcare facilities, including operating and delivery rooms, one-day surgery centers, emergency and central supply departments, and ambulatory care centers.

"As partners in health science education we seek to do the best for the most students, and this arrangement continues that effort," said Brenda Beshears, president and chief executive officer of Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing & Health Sciences. "We want to increase the number of healthcare professionals who are prepared to deliver excellent care in any way we can."

JWCC first accepted students into a certificate program in 2000 and expanded coursework to offer a two-year associate degree in 2012.

The surgical technology program has a solid foundation in the health sciences, which allows graduates to continue up the career ladder in positions such as nurse, certified surgical technologist in a first assist role, and personal surgical technologist/scribe. It also offers employment as a traveling surgical technologist and working with organ procurement organizations.

The two-year degree includes the following courses: anatomy and physiology, surgical pharmacology, technical math, interpersonal communication, psychology, medical terminology, microbiology, and multiple specialized courses and clinical work in surgical technology. Students pair with a highly skilled, qualified clinical mentor at an area clinical facility.

Students also complete a lab component that provides the necessary skills and techniques to help students apply best practice of sterile technique and surgical procedures. The addition of the simulation lab at BRCN will provide students with a new perspective on surgical procedures, equipment, and instrumentation.

More information about the program can be found at www.jwcc.edu/surgtech.

Become a Member

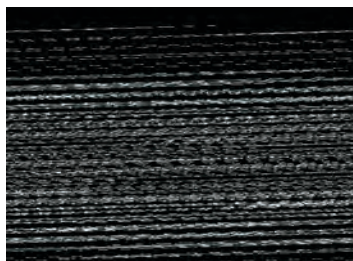
BLESSING NURSES

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 2017-2018

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

Every fall Blessing-Rieman students have the opportunity to thank those who make it possible for them to pursue nursing education. Below are several thank you notes from students who receive scholarships from our generous scholarship donors.

"I would like to take a moment and thank you for providing me with the support to complete nursing school. I am a junior this year and am looking forward to what the year will bring. It is because of the support of our generous donors that I will be able to succeed in my academics. I know I have less of a financial burden sitting on my shoulders."

"Thank you so much for helping me financially to be able to reach my educational goals! It truly is a blessing to receive such a gift."

"I would like to express my sincerest gratitude for your awarding me this scholarship. I was very appreciative to learn that I was chosen as the recipient of your scholarship. I am a mother of three young children aged six, one, and two weeks, so continuing my education has been challenging in more ways than one. Upon graduation I plan to work at the Department of Veterans Affairs providing the best care I can to the deserving veterans of our country. Your generous scholarship has allowed me to continue into my senior year and lightened my financial burden. Your generosity has further inspired me to help others, and I will be successful in doing so."

"Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to receive this scholarship. Without it, I would have struggled to pay tuition since I am an independent student putting myself through nursing school. I love nursing as well as this school, and I am so blessed to be here. Thank you!"

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!



CONGRATULATIONS, DECEMBER GRADUATES!



On December 15, 2017, at Madison Park Christian Church, Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing & Health Sciences held its 2nd December Commencement Ceremony.

Angela Marie Buss
Meagan Danielle DeWaard
Jessica Ann Dunn
Garrett Lee Edwards
Amy Renee Farr
Jessica Kathleen Givens
Jeanne Marie Jimenez
Madison Reeann Lewis
Anna Elizabeth Linderman
Jacob Ray Shoemaker
Robert William Overstreet
Kaytlynn Marie Richter
Jamie Lynn Springett
Gretchen Marie Webster
Jennifer Lee Wolfe



Madison Lewis, Angela Buss, and
Anna Linderman



Jamie Springett and
Dr. Brenda Beshears

Public Notice

Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing & Health Sciences is seeking comments from the public about the College in preparation for its periodic evaluation by its regional accrediting agency. The College will host a visit, April 30 - May 1, 2018, with a team representing the Higher Learning Commission. Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing & Health Sciences has been accredited by HLC since 1994. The team will review the institution's ongoing ability to meet HLC's Criteria for Accreditation.

The public is invited to submit comments regarding the College to the following address:

Public Comment on Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing
Higher Learning Commission
230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500
Chicago, IL 60604-1411

The public may also submit comments on HLC's website at www.hlcommission.org/comment.
Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs.
Comments must be in writing.



BLESSING-RIEMAN
College of Nursing & Health Sciences

All comments must be received by March 30, 2018

We've been busy at Blessing-Rieman!

Teddy Bear Clinic – October 1, 2017

Maternal Child students planned and conducted the 29th annual Teddy Bear Clinic, a health and wellness event geared toward 3- to 6-year-olds and their families. The event had a Disney theme this year, and the students did an excellent job presenting on the following topics: dental health, nutrition, vaccination, car seat safety, handwashing, the importance of reading, physical activity, home safety, poisoning prevention, and therapeutic play. The event was very successful with a total of more than 500 children and parents in attendance.

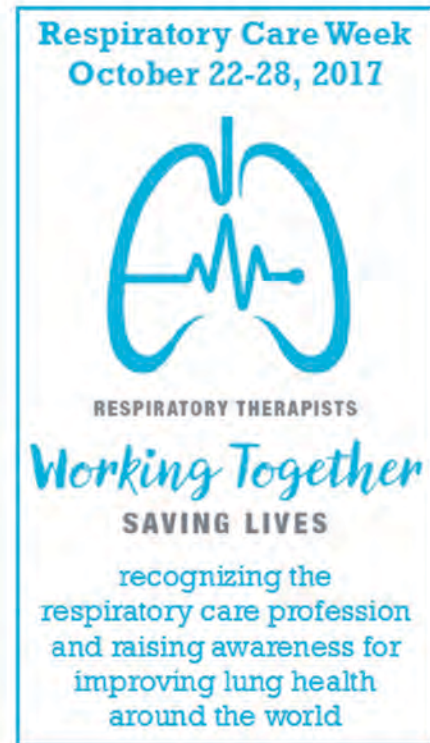


Celebrating 25 Years



The Pi Pi Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International will hold its 25th Annual Research Day on Friday, October 26, 2018, from 1:30-5:00pm at John Wood Community College in the Paul Heath Auditorium. The keynote speaker will be Cathy Catrambone. This year we will be celebrating our “silver” Research Day. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend our special celebration.

We celebrated **Respiratory Care Week** with a variety of activities, including special treats, games, and a luncheon for our respiratory care students.

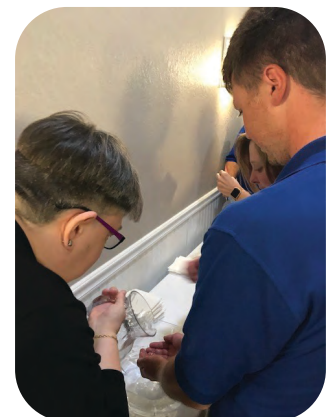


Commitment to Care 2017

Katie Duke, nurse practitioner, spoke about the healthcare field and encouraged students to find their own path.



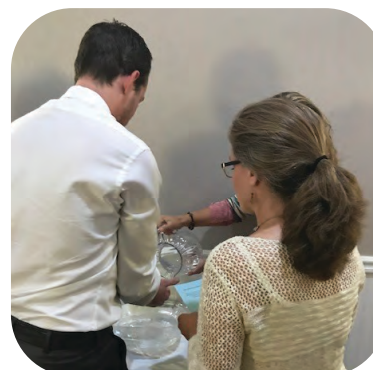
Students spent time discussing their education at BRCN and their future career plans.



Deb Race and Lucas Hugenberg



Left to right: Kayla Reichert, Katelyn Holaway, speaker Katie Duke, Cassandra Ellison, and Brooke Cameron



Tanner Charron and Debbie Fitzgerald



STUDENT NEWS



Reide Frakes, Jeanne Jimenez, Shanna Garrison, Julissa Quinonez, Shelby Kite, Carl Crowder, and Maria Leapley attended the SNAI Convention in Chicago. Activities included a keynote speech, break-out sessions, an exhibit hall, and a Kaplan review.



Three BRCN students were elected to the **SNAI Board of Directors** for 2017-2018.

SNAI President: Shanna Garrison
Secretary: Maria Leapley
Marketing Director: Reide Frakes



Front: Shelby Kite, Shanna Garrison, Chelsea Coles, Gussie Conoyer, Madison Morgan, Courtni Hackett, Jessica Givens, Maria Leapley

Middle: Beth Jones, Michaela Llewellyn, Ashley Kincaid, Anna Linderman

Back: Lori Sprenger, Susan McReynolds, Marianne Schmitt, Kimi Yuchs, Grace Williams, Linda Burke, Jeanne Jimenez, Joseph Meyer

Five faculty members accompanied 15 students to the **Power of Nursing Leadership conference** hosted by the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) College of Nursing.

The purpose of the annual Power of Nursing Leadership event is to celebrate the impact and achievements of nurse leaders in Illinois. The goal of the event is to enhance and engage partnerships among leaders in academia, government, health care delivery, and health care services.

During the morning of the conference, a speaker discussed making an impact in the field of nursing. After lunch, awards were presented to nurses and nursing students.

Jeanne Jimenez, a December 2017 graduate of BRCN, received the 2017 Pinnacle Nurse Leader Award.



Jeanne Jimenez (left) received the 2017 Pinnacle Nurse Leader Award



Barbara Taylor, BSN, RN, Coordinator of Learning, Resource Center and Academic Advisor, Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing & Health Sciences, retired effective December 31, 2017, after nine years of service.

Ann O'Sullivan, MSN, RN, NE-BC, CNE, ANEF, Assistant Dean and Associate Professor, Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing & Health Sciences, retired effective August 5, 2017, after 28 years of service to the College and 45 years in the nursing profession.



In Memory of Dr. Marilyn Murphy Shepherd



It is with great sadness that we share the passing of one of our faithful Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing & Health Sciences (BRCN) faculty members, Dr. Marilyn Murphy Shepherd. Marilyn passed away on December 13, 2017, at Blessing Hospital in Quincy, IL.

Many will remember Marilyn as a gracious and humble person who had a deep love of nursing, education, and nursing students. Marilyn had obtained not only a PhD in Nursing, but also an MBA, along with national certifications as a nurse educator, a diabetic educator, and a wound and ostomy nurse. She was a published author in several professional journals and served on many local, state, and national nursing professional boards and committees as well as community organizations. She was an active and supportive Pi Pi member.

Marilyn was a creative professor making learning fun and memorable for students. She was always one of the first people to volunteer and help others. Her presence, smile, and caring personality will be greatly missed.

Nurse of the Year Nominations Needed

BNAA Nurse of the Year Nomination Form

Nominations due April 2, 2018

Name of Nominee _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

Year of Graduation _____

Personal Achievements (Professional achievements, involvement with professional organization, involvement with Blessing Nurses Alumni Association, impact on the nursing profession, impact in the community, volunteer achievements, professional memberships, civic/community memberships)

Personal Background Information (Place of birth, schools attended, family information, items of interest)

Name of Nominator _____

Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

Please return nominations to:

Blessing-Rieman, Attn: Jenna Crabtree
Broadway at 11th Street, PO Box 7005, Quincy, IL 62305
jcrabtree@brcn.edu

ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

Norma Mixer Foglesong, class of 1950, passed away on August 12, 2017. Norma worked for 40 years as a nurse in Illinois, Ohio, and Michigan.

Alumni News and 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.

_____ 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 August 1, 2017, to December 31, 2017.

Blessing Nurses Alumni Association Scholarship Fund
Annie M. Hedeman

Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing & Health Sciences
Kathy Williams

In Memory of Nathan R. Fink

Anonymous Donor
Tony and Deborah Boyles
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W. Eugene and Joyce Buckert
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Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing & Health Sciences
- General Endowment Fund

In Memory of Marilyn M. Shepherd
(Marilyn Murphy Shepherd Scholarship)

Sandra Ahlum, M.D.
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Larry and Judith Cox
Jeffrey Dunn
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Kristine Russell
Nancy Shepherd
Kelly Thompson

In Memory of Dr. and Mrs. Edgar Hayden Keys
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Nick and Karen Keys

In Honor of James E. Waterkotte
(Frances Waterkotte Scholarship)
Brad and Bonnie Billings

In Honor of Lawrence & Marcia Swearingen
(Lawrence L. Swearingen Scholarship)
Brad and Bonnie Billings

Lawrence L. Swearingen Scholarship
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence L. Swearingen

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Brad and Bonnie Billings Scholarship
Brad and Bonnie Billings

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In Memory of Carol A. Carter
(Carol Carter Scholarship)
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Candace Leeper Scholarship
Janet S. Conrady

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Leta Faye Mitchell Munson Scholarship
Melody L. Munson-McGee

Trautvetter Family Scholarship
Dr. and Mrs. Ned L. Snider

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Barbara Lundberg Taylor

Lucille V. Stuffing Scholarship
Mr. Dan Voorhis

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, PO Box 7005, 1121 Broadway, 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 January 2018

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

Blessing Hospital
Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing & Health Sciences
PO Box 7005, Broadway at 11th Street
Quincy, IL 62305-7005

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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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jcrabtree@brcn.edu

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