The changing face of nursing

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There’s just something about August. For those of us in academia, it signifies a fresh start, the promise of a new school year filled with hope for the future. Childhood memories come flooding back—the excitement of new school supplies, seeing old friends and anticipating all there is to learn. I know many of you feel the same way today as the fall semester commences.

For ResU, this fall marks the beginning of our countdown to the College of Nursing’s 100th Anniversary. We’re planning a spectacular year of celebration to honor the College’s rich history that began on February 17, 1914. Today, nearly a century later, we’re proud of our institution and the thousands of successful professionals who have made a substantial impact on society.

Our graduates make great strides in their lives and careers, and our goal for the 100th Anniversary is to honor them, starting with a tribute to three of our alumni in this issue of Reflections. You’ll learn about 1939 graduate Doris Mesenbrink, a trailblazer from West Suburban Hospital School for Nurses’ 25th class, as well as Alice Teisan, a visionary from the final graduating class of Wheaton College-West Suburban Hospital School of Nursing in 1984, and Kathleen Benson, a compassionate DNP candidate and an alumna from the College of Nursing’s class of 2010 who graduated from Resurrection University.

Over the coming months you will receive information about activities and events celebrating the legacy of the College of Nursing. Please save the date, May 2–4, 2014, for our 100th Anniversary Celebration Weekend. We are planning three days of inspiration, fun-filled evenings and a few surprises to delight all. Dr. Sharon Bolin, a revered figure who has touched the lives of many, is the Honorary Chair of the 100th Anniversary Celebration. Dr. Bolin joined us as a student in 1954 and later became faculty and then director of the School of Nursing for over 20 years.

The year 2014 will be our time to shine as we recognize and pay homage to the institutions that make us great today: West Suburban Hospital School for Nurses, West Suburban Hospital School of Nursing, Wheaton College-West Suburban Hospital School of Nursing, Concordia-West Suburban College of Nursing, West Suburban College of Nursing and Resurrection University.

The countdown has begun, and we look forward to seeing you at the upcoming anniversary events. 2014 will certainly be a year to remember!

Sincerely,

Beth A. Brooks, PhD, RN, FACHE
President, Resurrection University
Connected by caring

The profession of nursing is continuously evolving and the College of Nursing has been a part of this change since our doors first opened in 1914. Thousands have graduated over the years, including Doris Mesenbrink, Alice Teisan and Kathleen Benson, whose stories you’ll find in the next few pages. They became nurses in different eras and chose unique paths, but they share the passion to dedicate their lives to help and heal others.
A lifetime of giving

Even as a little girl, Doris Kurtz dreamed of being a nurse. But pursuing that goal was not easy. Doris, now retired and living in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, recently reminisced with Dr. Beth A. Brooks, President of Resurrection University, during a visit to her home.

Growing up during the depression as the eldest of 10, money was tight. But Doris was determined to attend what was then the West Suburban Hospital School for Nurses. She moved from Rochester, Wisconsin, to Oak Park, Illinois, only to find that she was too young to enter school. Undeterred, she became a waitress earning $1 a day plus tips and began to save for tuition.

There she met and fell in love with Paul Mesenbrink. They secretly wed in 1938 because nursing students weren’t allowed to marry at the time. Why the rush? Paul offered to help her pay tuition and Doris didn’t feel right about accepting such a generous gift without being married. “We didn’t even set up house until after graduation,” she said.

When Doris graduated, the couple moved to Lake Forest where she returned the favor and went to work in an OB ward while Paul went to school to become a tool and die maker. She took a position at Lake Forest Hospital in a 7-bed medical-surgical ward after passing the boards.

Throughout her nearly 55-year career, Doris never took a break except for a few weeks after the births of each of her two children. “I was so fortunate that I didn’t have to put my career on hold. I just brought the children to work with me. I worked the night shift, so they could sleep while I worked.” Eventually, she left the hospital setting to be a private duty nurse, and in the 1980s, she became the Director of Nursing in a long-term facility before officially retiring.

What did Doris enjoy most about nursing? “It was the response I received from my patients and their families. I will always treasure those relationships and, to this day, many of my patients keep in touch. Just recently, I received a gift from someone I treated as a baby over 40 years ago.”

Always one to give back, Doris established the Kurtz Mesenbrink Endowed Scholarship in 2006 on behalf of her husband, who passed away in 1999, and herself. Each year, the scholarship helps an undergraduate nursing student reach his or her dream of becoming a nurse.

Today, at 95, Doris enjoys living independently and proudly displays her nursing memorabilia, including the pin she received at graduation. Because it was the 25th graduating class, students received silver and blue pins, instead of the traditional gold and blue. Doris will be honored for her lifetime of dedication to nursing at the College of Nursing’s 100th Anniversary Celebration Dinner on May 3, 2014.
“I use my nursing skills every day in one way or another,” says Alice Teisan. “As nurses, we will always be on one end of the stethoscope or the other, whether we’re practicing or as a patient.”
“When I was looking for a nursing school, West Suburban was affiliated with Wheaton College, an important factor for me,” remembers Alice. “My father was a Wheaton alum and my aunt had graduated from West Suburban. So applying there was a natural progression, especially since their reputation preceded them. Now, it’s been 30 years since I graduated! In fact, I was the last person pinned with the joint West Suburban/Wheaton College pin.”

Alice’s time at West Suburban planted the seeds for her life’s work in ways she never could have anticipated. One unique aspect of her education that directly connects nursing to where she is now was a Service Learning trip to Zimbabwe that she went on in 1983. She notes, “I didn’t realize it for 20 years, but I now feel that God was calling me, not to be a missionary, but to provide tools for the nationals so that they could help themselves.”

During those two decades, Alice was pursuing her other passion as a cyclist. Her goal was to ride her bike on all seven continents and in every state. She was well on her way to realizing that dream, when on the eve of a major cycling trip, she came down with what she thought at first was a bad flu. Months later, she was diagnosed with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, a debilitating condition that meant Alice could no longer work or live normally, much less ride a bike.

Fast forward over a decade to Alice having dinner with a Tanzanian couple who informed her, to her surprise, that one of the most tangible needs in their home country was for bicycles. Pastors serving rural areas spent most of their time walking from village to village rather than serving in their ministry.

So bicycles became prominent in her life once again, setting the stage for her next step, not as a cyclist, but as the catalyst for helping others with transportation. In 2005, she founded His Wheels International, a non-profit organization that began providing bicycles for pastors and others in need in developing countries. After eight years and nearly 1,700 bicycles distributed, His Wheels now focuses primarily on serving people disabled by landmines, polio or birth deformities by providing them hand-pedaled three-wheelers that are prototyped and built by experts.

Alice’s vision still revolves around conquering all the continents and as many countries as possible. It’s just that she’ll be supplying bikes to others instead of riding one herself. “It breaks my heart to see disabled people dragging themselves on the ground,” she says. “Our trikes lift people out of the dirt and give them the dignity they deserve. They gain independence and the ability to see people eye-to-eye instead of always having to look up to others.”

“My nursing skills have been indispensable in my work and have helped me navigate many years of disability in a profound way,” adds Alice. “I am grateful for all that I learned at West Suburban and especially for the lifelong friendships that began there.” Alice will share her inspirational story as the commencement speaker at Resurrection University’s December graduation.

For more information on His Wheels International visit HisWheels.org.
Small patients, big plans

“I always thought I wanted to work in business, but found myself watching the Discovery Health Channel more than CNBC,” Kathleen Benson laughs. She began her career path in business, and in fact, has a bachelor’s degree in finance.

But health care and nursing kept luring her in. “I was interested in health and physiology and the idea of helping others comes naturally,” she says. “So, I took a job as a nursing assistant and that’s when I knew I definitely wanted to switch gears and become a nurse.”

“Because I had already gone to college for four years, I was looking for a nursing school that would allow me to finish quickly and move on to my new career,” says Kathleen. “ResU’s year-round program fit the bill perfectly. I was able to earn my BSN in 20 months and jump into the job market. It was the right decision for me and I don’t regret it for a minute. As a member of the inaugural Resurrection University class, it was an honor to be among the first to receive ResU’s College of Nursing pin.”

Degree in hand, Kathleen started a position at Presence Saints Mary and Elizabeth Medical Center, where she works today. She was cross-trained in postpartum and adult medical-surgical and now primarily works in pediatrics. “I love working with children. With my outgoing personality, I’ve always been able to easily bond with them and, at 5’3”, they find me non-threatening. Plus, I’m just a big kid at heart. It’s a new challenge every day and I’m especially interested in educating parents about prevention and health issues.”

During the hospital’s recent transition to electronic health records, Kathleen was recruited to be a Super User. In this role, she was trained first on the new technology and then became a trainer and resource for other employees. She is a fan of the new system and feels that it is easier, quicker and safer because it helps prevent medication errors with built-in checks and balances. “Plus, faster charting gives us more time with our patients,” she adds.
Kathleen loves her job, but is by no means finished with her pursuit of education. She is currently enrolled at Rush University working towards her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP). Kathleen is specializing in pediatrics, and her future role as a Nurse Practitioner will allow her to provide primary care services. She works the night shift and spends her days completing the online doctoral coursework.

Through her work and educational training, Kathleen is living and learning the changes that the Affordable Care Act is bringing to health care and the profession of nursing. She is well aware that computerized documentation is just the tip of the iceberg. For Nurse Practitioners, health care reform and the new law means enjoying a broader role in patient care along with increased responsibilities. By all accounts, Kathleen is fully prepared and up to the challenge.

Her long-term goals? Kathleen looks forward to finishing her doctorate and working in pediatrics in either a clinic or hospital setting. “I feel strongly about providing primary care and reaching out to patients with education that will help prevent disease and unnecessary hospitalizations,” she says. “Eventually, I would love to manage a nurse-led pediatric primary care clinic. That would be ideal for me.”

*Kathleen Benson,*
*Class of 2010*
*Resurrection University*
Message from the Dean

Perhaps I shouldn’t admit that I hate history, but as a child and teenager I hated history! It always seemed a waste of time to memorize dates, people and places, so I did all I could to avoid history courses. However, I loved English classes because they were filled with stories. As I grew older, I realized it was not history that I hated; it was the way history was taught. Now, my thirst for historical knowledge as a story of human events is still not quenched and I hope that it never will be.

Over the years I have had the pleasure of meeting nurses from the formative years of this college. This week I met four wonderful alumni from as far back as 1950. I yearned to hear their stories of student life, first and successive nursing positions, the changes in health care and the ways we ensure the health of people globally.

It is amazing how our history has evolved over the past century to what nursing is today. For example, in 1914, an important admission criterion was the candidates’ character and good health. Nursing education was essentially an apprenticeship model. Students learned, observed, practiced and repeatedly performed a skill until it was perfect. Those skills ranged from rolling bandages to filing needles for reuse. And, one nurse shared her role of sterilizing trays of equipment each evening for use the next morning.

Back then, graduation occurred after a magical number of hours and experiences were achieved. Today, students complete those same activities, but learning is augmented by computer programs and time in a skills lab. Students receive a skills portfolio which is checked as they progress through the curriculum, but doesn’t affect graduation.

Our history and the wonderful alumni who lived it are as important as the students of today. I look forward to creating a beautiful book of the combined stories of our graduates. I applaud each and every one of you!

Sandie Soldwisch, PhD, APN, ANP-BC
Sister Gregory Krzak Endowed Chair for Nursing Education, Dean and Professor
The Health Informatics & Information Management program in the College of Allied Health at Resurrection University continues to grow and expand—with no end in sight! We are excited to add an all online Post-Baccalaureate Certificate to our offerings this fall. The new program gives those who already have a bachelor’s or advanced degree the opportunity to develop a new area of expertise in the quickly growing field of health information management.

The Post-Baccalaureate Certificate can be completed in just three semesters online if the student enrolls full-time. As with the bachelor program, graduates are able to sit for the credentialing exam to become a Registered Health Information Administrator (RHIA). Although visits to campus are unnecessary, students are welcome to take advantage of one-on-one tutoring and enjoy all the amenities at the University, such as our library, cafeteria, 24-hour lounge and even free parking.

As always, I am proud that our program fully prepares our students to succeed in this rapidly evolving field, including training related to federally mandated changes for 2014. For example, HIIM students receive formal training in Epic, a prevalent electronic health record software utilized by Presence Health and other health systems to fulfill a government requirement. We are also helping students obtain up-to-date information on the latest revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD) that will be implemented next year. The ICD is the standard diagnostic tool used by Medicare, Medicaid and other federal agencies.

It is very gratifying for me, and I know for our students as well, to have chosen this dynamic field as a career. To be able to have a direct impact on the quality of health care is very fulfilling. Our work is transforming the way health care is delivered and helping to make it more efficient, coordinated and safe. I can’t think of a more rewarding place to be!

Catherine McIlwain, MS&Ed, RHIA
HIIM Program Director
Putting ideas to the test

As a culminating experience before graduation, students in the Master of Science in Nursing Program complete a Scholarly Synthesis project similar to a traditional thesis. Under the guidance of their faculty advisor, graduate nursing students choose a topic based on personal interest or a perceived need in professional practice. They then synthesize what they learn using a scholarly format such as a research or evaluation project, evidence-based practice protocol, educational program design or grant application. This semester’s graduating class presented an impressive array of projects addressing issues from obesity to child safety seats to congestive heart failure.

Recognizing teaching excellence

For the second year running, Resurrection University has presented the DAISY Nursing Faculty Award to one of our College of Nursing faculty. The DAISY Foundation was established in memory of Patrick Barnes, who died of a rare auto-immune disease. His family created the foundation and the national DAISY awards to honor Patrick and to recognize the outstanding clinical skills, caring and compassion of the nurses who cared for him.

At ResU, the DAISY Faculty Award is given to a College of Nursing professor who is committed to inspiring and influencing nursing students. Fellow faculty, staff, administrators and students may submit nominations and the recipient is chosen through a blind review. This year, Jeny Mathews, Julie Duff, Lynda Crawford, Mary Kakenmaster, Tamara Bland and Sandie Soldwisch were nominated.

Tamara Bland, who is also an alumna from the class of 1998, was selected as this year’s honoree for excellence as a classroom and clinical educator and for developing leadership opportunities for students. Congratulations to Tamara Bland and all the nominees!
College of Nursing Honor Society events

VENIPUNCTURE 101
The first of many educational offerings being planned by the Nursing Honor Society, Venipuncture 101 was a resounding success. On June 15, ten recent College of Nursing graduates participated in a two-hour session led by Laura Domagala, MSN, RN, and Jacqueline Stark, MSN, APN, CPNP. The program combined a review of IV therapy concepts and techniques as well as hands-on time in the Simulation Learning Center to practice identifying access sites on each other and inserting IVs into human simulators.

IT’S AN HONOR
On April 18, a new class of members was inducted into the Nursing Honor Society. Two graduate students, 17 undergraduates and seven RN to BSN students were invited to join based on their consistently high GPAs. Featured speaker Dean Sandie Soldwisch, PhD, APN, ANP-BC, shared a vision for inductees to uphold the tradition of excellence in nursing practice.

COMING SOON
This October 24th, the Honor Society is proud to sponsor and host Presence Health’s annual research day to be held at Resurrection University.

In this interactive workshop, Honor Society President and Professor Nancy Reese, MSN, RN, CNE, instructs Dean Hutchings and Ruste Statuleviciute on the correct procedures for establishing IVs and drawing blood.
The majestic Drury Lane Theater was the site of Resurrection University’s Commencement Ceremony on May 4, 2013. Our largest class to date, 131 students, representing all four programs from both the College of Nursing and College of Allied Health, crossed the stage and became alumni. Many received honors and scholarships. All felt the love and support of family and friends as they received their diploma, cheered on by a theater brimming with people.

During the ceremony, new MSN graduate Saify Talib gave a remarkable student reflection thanking the faculty and ResU community for their guidance. Sheila Davis, DNP, ANP, FAAN, Chief Nursing Officer at Partners In Health, delivered a truly inspiring commencement address. Reflecting on her 25 years in nursing, she talked of her travels to places such as Haiti, Thailand and Botswana, and how she made an impact in the wake of catastrophes like genocide and earthquakes. She challenged graduates to leave their comfort zone, take on responsibility, hold themselves to a higher standard and help other future nurses along the way.

Resurrection University is very proud of all of our accomplished graduates and we pledge to support them in their future endeavors. Nancy Reese, MSN, RN, CNE, professor and alumna from the class of 1996, gave the alumni address, encouraging every graduate to stay connected with ResU and fellow alums through the Resurrection University Alumni Association.

PINNING CEREMONY

Held the day before graduation, Resurrection University’s College of Nursing Pinning Ceremony is the traditional welcome into the nursing profession for new graduates. Dean Sandie Soldwisch, PhD, APN, ANP-BC, pinned almost 90 students. The new nurses received a blessing of their hands and took the nurse’s oath with palms held high.
New Alumni Scholarship Fund goal

Resurrection University has set a goal of raising $50,000 for our College of Nursing Alumni Scholarship Fund in time for the College’s 100th Anniversary celebration in May, 2014. We are proud to announce that Bear Construction’s $5,000 contribution to the fund is our lead gift at this time.

Using contributions from alumni and friends of the University, the College of Nursing Alumni Scholarship Fund awards a $5,000 scholarship annually to an eligible junior or senior nursing student.

Initiated by West Suburban School of Nurses and West Suburban College of Nursing alumni, the scholarship is awarded on the basis of superior academic achievement, clinical qualities, scholarship, professionalism and leadership. A faculty letter of endorsement, interview with the College Scholarship Committee, essay and full-time status are required for eligibility.

To find out more, visit ResU.edu/alumni or contact Matthew Hughes at 773.252.5310 or matthew.hughes@resu.edu.

Nursing Honor Society receives generous donation

Resurrection University’s Alumni Association has graciously donated $3,400 to the College of Nursing Honor Society as they work to begin a chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, a global community of nurse leaders. Membership to the Honor Society is by invitation-only to baccalaureate and graduate nursing students who demonstrate scholarly excellence. The donation will make it possible for the Honor Society to increase educational and professional development offerings.

Learn more about the Resurrection University Alumni Association on page 20.
Networking across borders

This June, we were pleased to host Yurley Maria Agudelo, RN, MBA, from Medellín, Colombia. Ms. Agudelo is the Chief Nursing Officer of University Hospital of San Vicente Foundation, the largest in the country.

She came to Chicago and ResU to learn how nursing practices are implemented in hospitals here and to see firsthand our approach to educating nurses. She is focused on improving the quality of care and is looking for strategies to raise the level of nursing education and to empower nurses as advocates for patients. During her visit, Ms. Agudelo toured our campus, joined in a pediatric nursing class and met with several staff and faculty, including Dean Sandie Soldwisch, PhD, APN, ANP-BC, and President Beth A. Brooks, PhD, RN, FACHE.

ResU welcomes those with fresh cultural and professional perspectives to enrich our understanding and we trust that Ms. Agudelo returned to Colombia inspired and full of ideas. She is ResU’s second recent international visitor. In the spring of 2012, Resurrection University hosted Dr. Prathana Langkarpint, a Fulbright Scholar from the College of Nursing at Payap University in Thailand. We look forward to continued collaboration with them and other visitors as a way to strengthen our programs and the health care field.

Building teamwork: The picnic project

On June 14, ResU staff and faculty gathered as a team to spruce up a grassy park area on campus. Together, we planted flowers and assembled four new picnic tables, just in time for summer. All hospital and university staff and students are welcome to use this beautiful spot for lunch, a snack or just a break to enjoy the outdoors.
Student Nurse Association

Resurrection University’s College of Nursing Student Nurse Association is shifting its focus to give students more professional development, clinical experiences and volunteer opportunities that will help broaden their skills.

Each month, through “The Professional Life” series, College of Nursing faculty members offer interactive presentations about their specialty areas. Recent speakers include Julie Duff, MS, RN, WHNP-BC, Jacqueline Stark, MSN, APN, CPNP, and Yasmin Cavenaugh, MSN, MPH, RN. Another unique element is our student research projects. Current ongoing projects include a study of spiritual distress of nursing students and developing a proposal to look at student perceptions about interdisciplinary education. Also, our students volunteered to conduct blood pressure, height, weight, BMI and glucose screenings at six free neighborhood clinics this summer in partnership with Catholic Charities.

Student Government Organization

PEER NETWORK
To help incoming students transition into the University this fall, they will be matched with current students through the Peer Network. The Network is a great source of information and comfort as experienced students provide advice, offer insight and answer questions new students may have.

CLOTHING DRIVE
As part of our goal to serve the community, students collected thirteen large bags of clothing and shoes for donation to Presence Saints Mary and Elizabeth Medical Center’s mental health program. Facilitated by College of Nursing faculty member Maureen Kelly, MSN, RN, the results of this service project were much appreciated by patients and families.

FREE BREAKFAST
To alleviate a little stress for students during finals each semester, the Student Government Organization provides fresh fruit, bagels, coffee and juice every morning in the lounge.

NEW RESU APPAREL
An apparel store where students can purchase different styles of T-shirts is now open. There are future plans for an online store and further apparel options. To purchase a shirt, please contact Eric Hernandez, Assistant Director of Student Services at eric.hernandez@resu.edu or 773.252.5383.
Help make our celebration a success

Planning is well underway, but we need volunteers to serve on planning sub-committees to ensure the best celebration possible. Meetings will be held about once a month, depending on the need, and may be attended by conference call or in-person.

Entertainment
Take part in choosing the entertainment for the anniversary weekend, including a speaker and after dinner entertainment for the Saturday night celebration dinner, and music or other options for the homecoming class reunions on Friday night.

Heritage, History and Archives
Can you help us contact alumni to gather photographs, memorabilia and personal stories from their time on campus? We will select the best of these for use on our website, in publications and to create storyboards for the class reunions.

1914 • A CENTURY OF MAKING A DIFFERENCE • 2014

For 100 years, the College of Nursing has built a rich history of excellence in nursing education. On May 2–4, 2014, Resurrection University will host the College of Nursing’s 100th Anniversary Weekend Celebration. We are planning three days of inspiration, fun-filled evenings and a few surprises to delight all. Mark your calendars for an exciting trip down memory lane!
100TH ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND CELEBRATION HIGHLIGHTS

Friday, May 2
Nursing Pinning Ceremony
2:00 pm

Homecoming Class Reunions
Hilton Rosemont/Chicago O’Hare
Tickets: $40 includes buffet dinner

Saturday, May 3
Commencement Ceremony
10:00 am

Celebration Dinner
Hilton Rosemont/Chicago O’Hare
Tickets: $90
Discounted tickets: $75
• For alumni who graduated after 2007 or before 1989
• For 2014 graduates and their families

Sunday, May 4
Events to be announced

Visit ResU.edu/100 for updates!

Homecoming Reunion
Homecoming class reunions, one for each decade, are in the works for Friday night. Help us seek out missing classmates, work out the details for these gatherings and possibly plan additional events.

Outstanding Alumni Awards
This committee will develop selection criteria for Outstanding Alumni Awards, solicit nominees and prepare a slate of nominees for selection. Help plan how award winners will be recognized at the Anniversary Celebration Dinner and also select the type of awards, such as a plaque or certificate, that will be presented throughout the weekend.

Mission and Ministry
Selecting invocation speakers for Friday’s homecoming reunions and Saturday’s celebration dinner are at the top of the agenda for this committee. Planning may also include an interfaith church service on Sunday or other mission- and ministry-related events.

The Chairs of each of these sub-committees, along with alumni volunteers, make up the Planning Committee. The upcoming meeting dates for this committee are August 13, October 1, November 5, January 14, February 11, March 11, April 8, 15, 22, 29.

To sign up or find out more, contact Esther Wallen at esther.wallen@resu.edu or 773.252.5133.
Alumni Association updates

CHANGING WITH THE TIMES

Over the years, like so many schools and colleges of nursing across the country, including what is now Rush University’s College of Nursing, West Suburban College of Nursing went through many changes. The College of Nursing moved from a hospital-based nursing diploma program, to offering a baccalaureate degree in nursing in a higher education environment, to most recently awarding graduate nursing degrees. The evolution of the College has led to what is now Resurrection University, with two colleges, one of which is the College of Nursing and the other is the College of Allied Health. During the transition, one thing has remained constant – the alumni’s affection for their school. As many before us, the diploma program alumni blended with the college program alumni to form a University alumni association.

JOINING TOGETHER TO STRENGTHEN OUR FUTURE

The Board of the Alumni Association of the West Suburban Hospital School/College of Nursing met many hours, over nearly a year to carefully deliberate on the future of the organization when the college was purchased by Resurrection Health Care and relocated to Presence Saint Elizabeth Hospital in Chicago. The Board weighed the pros and cons of uniting with the proposed new Resurrection University Alumni Association or remaining a separate entity to maintain its identity as West Suburban. On June 9, 2011, the Board voted to join the Resurrection University Alumni Association. The vote was 6 yes, 1 no and 1 abstention. The rationale in favor of joining ResU included:

- The charter for the nursing school belongs to Resurrection University. They legally own the records, archives and past institutional names. The history and future of the school goes with the charter.
- ResU hired personnel to manage the Alumni Association along with alumni relations and recordkeeping.
- ResU committed financial resources that will allow us to stay connected.
- We are able to influence the use of alumni funds that are part of the Resurrection Development Foundation. When the College of Nursing was founded, the Alumni Association of West Suburban had given a substantial donation to the Foundation for the College of Nursing.
- We can contribute to accurate representation of our history and share it with current students. It’s an opportunity to influence the future of nursing at Resurrection with the evangelical heritage of West Suburban. The University bylaws were specifically drafted to allow for the President of the Resurrection University Alumni Association to be a member of the Board of Trustees of Resurrection University.
- ResU can assist with developing web applications for the Alumni Association, enabling networking and keeping alumni informed of current events.

The Board has since been planning for the 100th Anniversary celebration. A beautiful heritage wall on the 6th floor of the University includes all the significant milestones of the School and College of Nursing from 1914 to the present.

Read about our donation to the College of Nursing Honor Society on page 15.
A taste of summer

On July 11th, the Alumni Association invited members for a quintessential Chicago outing—a trip to the Taste of Chicago. Together, the group enjoyed the amazing assortment of foods, musical performances and other entertainment. Everyone is looking forward to future events designed to take in the unique cultural offerings of our city.

A night of trivia

A group of alumni put their trivia knowledge to the test on May 30th at The Fifty/50 in Wicker Park. With food and drinks provided by ResU, it was a night filled with laughter, fun challenges and plenty of time to mingle with old classmates. Prizes included $15 gift cards to The Fifty/50 and a grand prize of a 2-hour VIP party for the winner and 15 friends. The Alumni Association plans to host a similar event later this fall.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Join us at these events around the city!

August 17, 9 am–2 pm
Presence Saints Mary and Elizabeth Medical Center Health Fair
Saint Aloysius Church/
Josephinum Academy

September 22
Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure®
Yorktown Mall, Lombard
Volunteer or join our team to walk!

September 23
Refreshing your Resume Workshop
Resurrection University

September 27
Metro Chicago Heart Walk
Grant Park, Downtown Chicago
Volunteer or join our team to walk!

October 12
Speaker Series
Resurrection University

October 26, 10 am–1 pm
Fall Open House
Resurrection University

November 14, 10 am–2 pm
Kidney Mobile Diabetes Awareness Event
Presence Saints Mary and Elizabeth Medical Center

December 13, 2 pm
College of Nursing Pinning Ceremony
Copernicus Center, Chicago

December 14, 10 am
Commencement Ceremony
Copernicus Center, Chicago

Need more information or want to attend? Contact Esther Wallen at esther.wallen@resu.edu or 773.252.5133
Class notes

Cynthia Sander, WSHSN ’60, retired in 2005 from Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, Illinois, as Professor Emerita of Nursing, following 12 years as Department of Nursing Chair. She moved to the Fort Wayne, Indiana, area where she was adjunct faculty in Indiana Wesleyan University’s RN-BSN program and now is a volunteer nurse advocate at a pregnancy resource center.

Grace Garcia, ResU ’10, began a new position as a Patient Care Training Specialist and department Team Leader at Presence Saints Mary and Elizabeth Medical Center, after spending a little over a year as a cardiac nurse post graduation. Her new role is geared more towards an administrative or HIM position, which offers her a new perspective on the hospital environment.

Sharon Luzzi, ResU ’10, recently transitioned from her position as an RN in the Burn ICU at Loyola University Medical Center, and has relocated to the United Arab Emirates. She will begin as a Clinical Analyst with Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi when it opens next year. It will be one of the biggest medical centers in the Middle East, with a goal of bringing a higher standard of care to the region.

Teri Birch, ResU ’13, graduated in May from the pre-licensure Bachelor of Science in Nursing program and has accepted a position as an RN at Presence Saint Joseph Hospital–Chicago in the Diamond Headache Inpatient Unit.

SHARE YOUR NEWS

Please take a moment to share your recent accomplishments and achievements for consideration in the next Reflections magazine. We will be featuring alumni career news and highlights such as:

- Appointments, promotions and new positions
- Mentions or feature stories in local media
- Publications and articles authored

Submit your news to Esther Wallen at esther.wallen@resu.edu.
In the book of Leviticus 25: 8-12, God reminds the people to declare a ‘Year of Jubilee’ to provide opportunities for education, community service and spiritual reflection. One of the hallmarks of the five sponsoring congregations of Presence Health is a commitment to service to “heal the broken-hearted and bind up their wounds.”

As Resurrection University, a part of Presence Health, begins preparation for the College of Nursing’s 100th Anniversary, we acknowledge God as the true author of all our good gifts and give thanks for His generosity. True to our mission and core values, we place emphasis on generosity and compassion, demonstrating an attitude of sharing with all our constituents.

100 years of nursing education
- teaching, nurturing, mentoring
- preparing students professionally and personally
- through commitment to the highest standards of educational excellence
- to carry on the teaching ministry of Jesus and respond to this call with conviction
- by living the values of justice, compassion and integrity.

During the College’s 100th Anniversary year
- we, the members of Resurrection University remember and celebrate the rich tradition of all those nurses who have gone before us and resolve, here and now to continue to leave an imprint in the minds, bodies and spirits of all those who will come after us.

Sister Sandi Sosnowski, CSFN

Sister Sandi Sosnowski, CSFN
As part of our 100th Anniversary commemoration, our cover story focuses on the lives of three alumni. Each became a nurse in a different era and chose a unique path, but all shared the passion to dedicate their lives to help and heal others.

Celebrating

100 years

of nursing excellence!

Visit ResU.edu/100 to get involved with our Celebration Weekend, May 2-4, 2014.

• Join a planning committee
• Help the College of Nursing Alumni Scholarship Fund reach its goal of $50,000
• Become a corporate sponsor