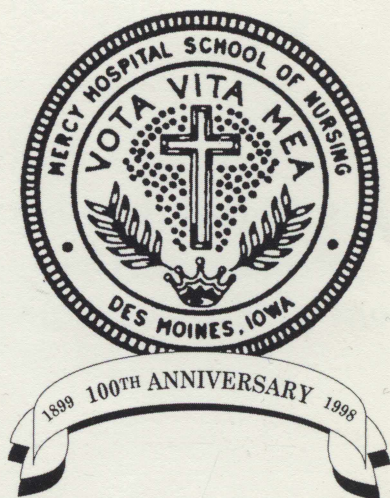


100 Years of Nursing Education
Sponsored by the
Religious Sisters of Mercy



A Celebration Co-Sponsored by the
Mercy College Nursing Alumni Association
and
Mercy College of Health Sciences

The 100th Anniversary Banquet
for the
Nursing Education Program
Sponsored by the
Religious Sisters of Mercy

1899 - 1998

Featuring the Inaugural Class of Distinguished Alumni
and Friends receiving
The Catherine McAuley Award for Nursing Excellence

Co-Sponsored by the
Mercy College Nursing Alumni Association and
Mercy College of Health Sciences

June 11, 1999
Des Moines Marriott Hotel

The Catherine McAuley Award for Nursing Excellence

Mercy College of Health Sciences instituted The Catherine McAuley Award for Nursing Excellence to honor alumni and friends of the Division of Nursing (or its predecessor program, the Mercy Hospital School of Nursing) for their lifetime achievements to the nursing profession. The award recognizes individuals who have provided superior service as nurses, who have served the communities where they live, and who have provided service to the nursing education programs sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy.

Nominees may be either alumni of the Mercy College Division of Nursing (or its predecessor program) and have completed their degree at least five (5) years before their nomination. Nominees who are not graduates may receive the award for outstanding, long-term contributions to the nursing education program of the Mercy Hospital School of Nursing or the Mercy College Division of Nursing.

Members of the Nursing Alumni Association Board of Directors serve as the review committee for the award. Nominations will be accepted annually with recognition provided at the annual Mercy College Nursing Alumni Association Banquet. The award is a framed copy of a portrait of Mother Mary Catherine McAuley, Foundress of the Sisters of Mercy, by artist Cloy Kent.

Program

Welcome and IntroductionsJohn Bachman
WHO-TV13 Anchorman

InvocationJeanne Christensen, R.S.M.
Secretary, Mercy College Board of Directors
and Director, Senior Services and Housing

Dinner

A Dramatic ReadingSusan Marcum
BSN Student
"The Words of Catherine McAuley"

Presentation of Distinguished Alumni AwardsJohn Bachman
Distributed by Mary Rasmussen Schemmel, Class of 1976,
President, Mercy College Nursing Alumni Association
and Dr. Deanne M. Remer, President of Mercy College

Presentation of Nursing Alumni Association
ScholarshipsJohn Bachman
Distributed by Mary Schemmel

Election of the Nursing Association
Officers and DirectorsJoAnn Humphreys

Mercy College UpdateDr. Deanne M. Remer
President, Mercy College of Health Sciences

100th Anniversary Quilt Raffle DrawingJohn Bachman

Concluding RemarksJohn Bachman

DancingMusic by The Des Moines Big Band

Distinguished Friend Award Recipient

Sister Mary Zita Brennan



Sr. Mary Zita Brennan has been posthumously selected as a distinguished friend of the nursing education program at Mercy Medical Center in Des Moines.

Sr. Zita entered nursing training at Mercy Hospital School of Nursing in 1921, when she was 17 years old. She entered the religious order prior to completing her nursing education, and graduated with a nursing

degree from Mercy Hospital in Council Bluffs in 1925.

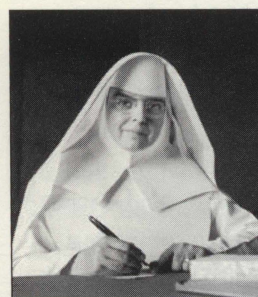
She returned to Des Moines in 1939 to work in the obstetrical ward, which she headed until 1974. Throughout her career, she was known for her special touches, words of encouragement, and her calligraphic birth certificates for thousand of Central Iowans who were born at Mercy.

In 1968, she was named Nurse of the Year by the 7th District Nurse Association, which covered a nine-county area of central and southern Iowa. In 1979, she was awarded the Des Moines Citizens Community Betterment Award, and in 1987 the Iowa Region of the National Conference of Christians and Jews honored her for her outstanding leadership in human relations and exemplary community service.

Throughout her career, Sister Zita touched the lives of countless nursing students. In retirement, she allowed her name to be used to undertake a capital campaign to build a classroom addition for nursing education. Even in death, Sister Zita asked that memorial contributions be directed to nursing scholarships. Sister Mary Zita Brennan died in 1996 at the age of 92.

Distinguished Friend Award Recipient

Sr. Mary Sebastian Geneser



Sr. Mary Sebastian Geneser has been selected as a distinguished friend of the nursing education program at Mercy Medical Center in Des Moines.

Sister Sebastian came to Mercy Hospital in Des Moines in 1938 as a nursing instructor for the Mercy Hospital School of Nursing. Later she served as assistant director and finally as director from 1947 to 1960.

In nominating her, Inie Johnson, a student of Sister Sebastian from the Class of 1954, said, "Sister was always there for the students; no pushover, but hard as nails with an ear to listen and ready to comfort any distressed student. She instilled in us a good work ethic and that we should have personal contact with patients and show understanding for their families. I, for one, cannot think of my days in nursing training without thinking of Sister Mary Sebastian."

Sister Sebastian was born in Des Moines at 1011 1st Street Place in 1905 as Florence Geneser. She attended St. Mary's School and St. Joseph Academy. She entered the novitiate at Mt. Loretta in Council Bluffs in 1923 and spent 15 years at Mercy Hospital in Council Bluffs. During this time she earned both her nursing diploma and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Creighton University.

Sister Sebastian retired from active service at Mercy Hospital in Des Moines in 1975.

Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient

Gladys Bowery Black



Gladys Bowery Black, Class of 1930, has been posthumously selected as a distinguished alumni for both her nursing career and her volunteer service to the field of ornithology in Iowa.

After earning her diploma in nursing, Gladys went on to the University of Minnesota to complete a Bachelor of Science in Public Health. She served as a public health nurse in Clarke and Mahaska counties in Iowa and worked for the U.S. Department of Health in Georgia.

In 1953, she was named "Woman of the Year" in Georgia. She later returned to Iowa and pursued her interest in the field of ornithology for 25 years. Her volunteer efforts included bird banding, rehabilitation of injured birds, nest studies, and migration reports leading to her nickname, "The Bird Lady of Iowa."

These efforts led to an honorary Doctor of Science degree from Simpson College in Indianola and an honorary lifetime membership in the Iowa Ornithologists' Union and the Des Moines Audubon Society. She was also named a Fellow of the Iowa Academy of Science. In 1985, she was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame.

Gladys was the author of two books, "Iowa Birdlife" and "Birds of Iowa." She contributed more than 40 years of her life to presenting lectures and slide shows to countless groups of children and adults on the birds of Iowa. She was also a regular guest columnist for the Des Moines Register and published a weekly column "Wings Over Iowa" for several Central Iowa newspapers.

Gladys died on July 19, 1998 at the age of 89.

Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient

Rose Marie Vecchi Cunion

Rose Marie Vecchi Cunion, Class of 1966, has been selected as a distinguished alumni for her exemplary nursing career at Mercy Medical Center, where she has worked for 33 years in the Intensive Care Unit.

In nominating Rosie, Linda Fleming-Lacey, a fellow classmate from 1966 stated, "Rose Marie has held the highest standard of nursing for 33 years. She has taught students, other nurses and supervisors the true meaning of nursing. Rose Marie has exemplified in her life a real strength of character. She has led a life of Christian faith, courage and generosity. She has a capacity to receive and a readiness to give. She respects the truth and has a quiet gentleness, tenderness, sense of humor and a healthy independence of mind and the ability to change, along with a knowledge of the dignity of hard work.

Rose Marie points the way to real living for her colleagues, her family, her children, grandchildren, relatives and friends."

Rosie earned a Critical Care Registered Nurse (CCRN) board certification in 1994, and maintains memberships in the American Association of Critical Care Nurses at the national and state level. In addition, she maintains certifications in Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) and Trauma Nurse Core (TNC).

A 1963 graduate of North High School in Des Moines, Rosie is married to James C. Cunion and has two children, Jim and Christin. Both children are married and Rose has three grandchildren and two more on the way later this fall. Joining her this evening, along with her children, are her mother and father, Emil and Angie Vecchi.

Nursing Alumni Association Scholarship Recipients
For Academic Year 1999-00

Nursing Alumni Association General Scholarship Winners

Funded by charitable contributions of the Mercy College Nursing Alumni Association and alumni, these scholarships are available to students studying in the ASN and BSN programs who have completed at least one semester of study, based on their cumulative GPA of 2.6 or higher, demonstrated financial need, and desire to join and be of service to the Nursing Association.

Roger Pajunen, ASN Candidate	\$500
Mary Starnes, ASN Candidate	\$500

Nursing Alumni Association Sr. Mary Sebastian Geneser Scholarships

Funded by the charitable contributions of the nursing alumni, these scholarships are available to all students studying in the ASN and BSN programs who have completed at least one year of study, based on their minimum cumulative GPA of 2.6 or higher, a demonstrated financial need, and a desire to join and be of service to the Nursing Association. The award is named after Sr. M. Sebastian, the 13th Director of the School of Nursing (1947-60).

Nancy Hill, ASN Candidate	\$500
Sherry McDonald, ASN Candidate	\$500
Billie Stringham, ASN Candidate	\$500

Nursing Alumni Association Sr. Mary Zita Brennan Nursing Endowed Scholarships

Funded by charitable contributions of the nursing alumni and friends of Sr. Zita, these endowed scholarships are available to ASN and BSN students who have completed at least one year of study, based on their cumulative GPA of 2.6 or higher, leadership qualities, and desire to join and be of service to the Nursing Association. The award is named after Sr. M. Zita Brennan who directed the maternity ward of Mercy Hospital for 44 years, from 1940-84.

Sara Dotzler, ASN Candidate	\$400
Kelly Zorn, ASN Candidate	\$350

Slate of Officers and Directors for 1999-00

During the 100th Anniversary Banquet, the members present will be asked to cast a verbal vote for the following candidates to hold office as officers and directors of the Mercy College Nursing Alumni Association until the next annual meeting of the organization on June 9, 2000.

Officers:

Mary Rasmussen Schemmel, President

Steve Wilbur, President-elect

Joann Olson, Treasurer

Kathy Kleber Aller, Secretary

Directors:

Rosemary Abbott

Louise Brady

Sandy Detrick Caligiuri

Laura Tiernan Dankof

JoAnn Galeazzi Humphreys

Inie Johnson

Carol Lamberti

Suzanne Mains

Julianne Yost Selden

Becky Tucker

Deb Willyard

Mercy College Nursing Alumni Association
Officers and Board of Directors

Officers:

Mary Rasmussen Schemmel, President
Class of 1976

Joann Olson, Treasurer
Class of 1968

Judy Eldredge, Secretary
Class of 1958

Directors:

Kathy Kleber Aller
Class of 1970

Inie Johnson
Class of 1954

Louise Brady
Class of 1943

Suzanne Mains
Class of 1964

Jill Huberty Breitbach
Class of 1996

Clara Lee Sassatelli Romano
Class of 1954

Sandy Detrick Caligiuri
Class of 1963

Julianne Yost Selden
Class of 1994

Laura Tiernan Dankof
Class of 1993

Helen Edmundson Southard
Class of 1948

JoAnn Galeazzi Humphreys
Class of 1968

Steve Wilber
Class of 1996

Mercy College of Health Sciences
Officers and Board of Directors

Officers :

Carroll Bennett, Chairman
Educational Consultant

Deanne M. Remer, Ph.D., President
Mercy College of Health Sciences

Thomas Reitingner, Board Vice Chair
President and Chief Executive Officer
Mercy Health Network

Jeanne Christensen, R.S.M., Secretary
Director, Senior Services and Housing
Mercy Medical Center

Directors:

James Aipperspach
President
Iowa Association of Business and Industry

David Marker, Ph.D.
Interim President
Morningside College

Steven Berry, M.D.
Physician
Chest, Infectious Disease and Critical Care
Association

Stella Neill, R.S.M.
Executive Director
Anawim Housing, Inc.

Connie Brdicko
Senior Vice President
Mercy Medical Center

Sally Reavely
Attorney
Davis, Brown, Koehn, Shors and Roberts

Joyce Chapman
Senior Vice President
West Bank

Mark Schoeberl, MPA
Chief of the Bureau of Public Affairs
Iowa Department of Public Health

Michael Disbro, M.D.
Radiologist
Mercy Medical Center

Rick D. Turner, M.D.
Chief Medical Officer
Mercy Clinics, Inc.

Denise Essman
President and CEO
Essman/Associates, Inc.

David Vellinga,
President and Chief Executive Officer
Mercy Medical Center

William Knowles
Retired Executive

Nursing Alumni Association Calendar of Activities
For 1999-00

Please mark your calendar to join us for the following nursing alumni events. Both members of the association and other alumni are welcome to attend. Specific information on each event will be mailed out approximately 30 days in advance.

Date	Event	Location
August 1999	Alumni Association Board Meeting	Mercy College
August 27, 1999	Iowa Cubs vs. Oklahoma Cookout & Baseball Game	Sec Taylor
September 16, 1999	Late Nite Catechism	Des Moines Civic Center Stoner Theater
Oct. 10-14, 17-21	Alumni Phonathon	
November 1999	Alumni Association Board Meeting	Mercy College
December 1999	Winter Graduating Student Reception	Mercy College
December 9, 1999	Nursing Alumni Christmas Luncheon	Hoyt Sherman Place
February 2000	Distinguished Alumni Selection Meeting	Mercy College
April 2000	Alumni CEU Presentation	Mercy College
April 2000	Spring Graduating Student Reception	Mercy College
May 2000	Alumni Scholarship Selection Meeting	Mercy College
June 9, 2000	Annual Nursing Alumni Banquet	Holiday Inn Downtown

Would You Help Us Find Some Alumni?

In preparation for the June 9, 2000 Nursing Alumni Banquet, we would like your help in locating the following alumni who we have lost contact with over the years. We need their address and telephone number so that members of their class can contact them with details about their reunion. Contact Brian Tingleff, Director of Institutional Advancement at (515) 643-6663, by fax at (515) 643-6698, or by email at btingleff@mercydesmoines.org. A mailing address is 928 6th Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50309-1239.

Class of 1950	Johanna O'Brien	Laura Helland
Juanita Davis	Mary Tucker	Jill Henderson
Pat Hanson		Kathy Kramer
Beverly Mullen	Class of 1975	Debra Novotny
Mary Ann Roach	Denise Baker	Patricia Olson
Margaret Rowe	Marilyn Baker	Debra Redig
	Cathy Buck	Sue Shannon-Witt
Class of 1955	Deanne Chambers	Rebecca Taft
Kathleen Conlon	Linda Clayton	Kathleen Tilton
Alice Foster	Therese Dembinski	
Fran Irwin	Maureen Deminovich	Class of 1985
Virginia King	Nancy Easton	Tom Coble
Bertha Salisbury	Barbara Farrell	Kori Foust
	Susan Halsch	Sandy Powell
Class of 1960	Susan Johnson	Debra Robertson
Sharon Cownie	James Kelley	Jane Roosa
Nancy Hanrahan	Sherry Kennedy	Christine Schmitt
Dorothy Mansfield	Susan Martin	Loline Shulenberger
Sharon McGrath	Margaret Meyer	Phyllis Stevens
Sandra Palcic	Constance Norgart	Teresa Taylor
Rosanne Ruder	Nina Pletchette	Paula Thomas
Judith Walker	Margaret Raygor	Shelly Vetter
Rosemary Wyman	Anne Reese	
	Sally Shelledy	Class of 1990
Class of 1965	Michele Shevik	Lisa Bryan
Sandra Ohlstrom	Kristine Smith	Lisa Crouch
Sandra Terrence		Lori Graesch
	Class of 1980	Dana Hogan
Class of 1970	Thomas Anderson	Kimberly Porter
Donna Benbow	Jeanette Briggs	Leanne Schoaf
Gwen Hatley	Rhonda Caylor	
Patti Mrachek	Nancy Gates	

Special Thanks

The Mercy College Nursing Alumni Association Board of Directors would like to thank Joann Olson, Class of 1968, for her coordination of the creation of the 100th Anniversary Quilt. Joann and members of her quilting group produced two quilts, one to be raffled off this evening and a second one for permanent display at Mercy College.

