

Mercy College students serve as Honor Flight Guardians, help veterans travel to Washington, DC, to visit memorials

Seven Mercy College students, one recent graduate and two faculty and staff members accompanied 71 veterans from WWII and Korea on the 30th Honor Flight Northwest Ohio trip to Washington, DC to visit the memorials built to honor their service. The Honor Flight departed and returned on May 22.

The volunteer group of guardians from Mercy College, which included one Army and two Marine veterans, underwent special training to fully prepare them for the privilege of assisting our nation's war heroes on this trip.

Ryan Reagan, a 2013 graduate of Mercy College's Associate of Science in Nursing program and a veteran himself, having served in the United States Marine Corps for seven-and-a-half years, said he

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Back Row: **Ricki Spotts, Siegfried Leviste, Sr. Sally Marie Bohnett, SND**
Middle Row: **Sr. Karen Elliott, CPPS, Tracy Schertz, Deneen Parker, Ryan Reagan**
Front Row: **Sylvia Reinhart, Thomas Moore, Gretchen Frankenfield**



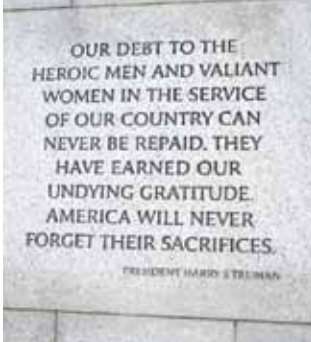
“With our healthcare focus and mission of compassion, Honor Flight service is an incredible opportunity for our students.”



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was inspired to participate as a guardian for Honor Flight to give back to veterans who have given so much.

"I felt blessed and honored to accompany these heroes as they were able to view the monuments they fought so hard for," he said. "Their reactions as they viewed the memorials were truly a highlight of the trip."

Senior BSN student **Tracy Schertz**, also a veteran, having served for two years in the United States Army, said before the trip her goal for her interaction with the veteran she was paired with was to show him gratitude and hopefully bring a smile to his face.

"The Honor Flight is such an incredible way for Mercy students to experience the Core Values that we are taught every day," Tracy said. "Being able to give human dignity back to a soldier who may not have been treated well after returning from war brings them to life."

Additional Mercy College students who served as guardians on the trip were

Gretchen A. Frankenfield, Siegfried T.

Leviste, Thomas Charles Moore IV, Deneen M. Parker (served for 17 years in the United States Marine Corps), **Sylvia Anne Reinhart** and **Ricki Lee Spotts. Sr. Sally Marie Bohnett, SND**, Campus Minister and Service-Learning Coordinator, and **Sr. Karen Elliott, CPPS**, Associate Professor of Religious Studies, served as Academic Advisors for the trip, which was Mercy College's first with Honor Flight, but hopefully not its last.

"We hope this will become an annual opportunity for our students," said **John F. Hayward**, Mercy College President. "With our healthcare focus and mission of compassion, Honor Flight service is an incredible opportunity for our students," he added.

Participation in the Honor Flight was made possible through support from the Sisters of the Precious Blood and the Mercy College of Ohio Foundation.



Employee Spotlight:

Susan Bernheisel, Ed.D., Associate Dean of Nursing

Susan Bernheisel, Ed.D., who first joined Mercy College a decade ago as an Assistant Professor of Nursing, advanced during her 10-year tenure to the rank of Full Professor. Dr. Bernheisel was named the Lead Nursing Graduate Program Developer in 2012 and recently took on a new role with the College.

"I am very excited about the opportunity to lead the Mercy College nursing program as the Associate Dean of Nursing," Dr. Bernheisel said. "Nursing is entering into a radical transformational phase in educational pedagogy and opportunities. The Affordable Care Act has opened the door to new specialties for nurses, resulting in new educational opportunities for our nursing program students. There has also been a call by nursing leaders around the country for a change in how we educate nursing students. These changes are both opportunities and challenges that the nursing program will be facing the next few years. I believe our faculty and staff are prepared to meet those challenges."

"The medical model of lecture-style nursing education has been used in nursing schools since Florence Nightingale began the first nurse education program in the 1860s. At Mercy College, we have already begun the process of change by reviewing our current curriculum and exploring the new type of Concept-Based nursing education pedagogy. The faculty has developed a new curriculum format using the Concept-Based educational pedagogy. I believe this change, while challenging for many of our faculty, will enhance our students' understanding of nursing concepts and skills and will emphasize their critical thinking ability. Change is something of a paradox, as it is both invigorating and paralyzing for faculty as it takes them out of their comfort zone. Implementing this dramatic change will require leadership that will both challenge the faculty and support them during this comprehensive transformation."

Dr. Bernheisel began her own nursing career in 1988 as a Medical Surgical Staff Nurse at Flower Hospital. Her career has provided her with a variety of professional opportunities including Medical Surgical Unit Charge Nurse, Diabetes Nurse Educator, Staff Development Educator, Orthopedic Case Manager, Orthopedic/Medical Surgical Unit Manager and CPR Instructor. She left the Promedica Health Care system in 1996 and joined the faculty at Lourdes College. She was named the Associate Director of Nursing Enrollment at Lourdes College and filled that role

for two years prior to joining Mercy College. Dr. Bernheisel shared that she loved the leadership role at Lourdes College but missed her contact with students and wanted to

return to the teaching role. She also was working on her doctorate at that time. She decided to resign her position at Lourdes and teach per diem while completing her doctoral dissertation. It was a short-lived break, as she was recruited to Mercy College as a full time faculty person, and during her faculty experience at Mercy College she gained an understanding of why there was such strong loyalty to and respect for the College by students, faculty and staff.

"I feel fortunate to have the opportunity to work with a group of faculty that demonstrates professionalism and caring," Dr. Bernheisel said. "They care about the academic success of our students and take pleasure in watching them grow into professional nurses that we can take pride in. Mercy College, under the watchful eye of **Dr. Maria Nowicki** (recently retired as Associate Dean of Nursing), has produced professional nurses who have a reputation of being competent and providing excellent patient care. They are the type of nurse you want to walk into your room if you are a patient. Dr. Nowicki, much like her predecessor, is leaving some very big shoes to fill, and it is my goal to continue their legacy and ensure that reputation continues. I also would like for Mercy College to be known as setting the gold standard for nursing education by earning a prestigious recognition by the National League for Nursing as a Center of Excellence. It is my vision that all of nursing programs will work toward this recognition and earn that designation of Center of Excellence. It is my firm belief that we already are a center of excellence because of our faculty. Now we need to share that with the rest of the community by earning the NLN designation."



Susan Bernheisel, Ed.D.

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Alumni Spotlight: **Anna Blanchett, RN, BSN**

Nurse credits Mercy College with preparing her well for a career requiring a unique blend of knowledge, skill and compassion

Anna Blanchett, RN, BSN, Mercy College Graduate, said she cannot remember a time when she dreamed of being anything other than a nurse.

“As a kid, I was always carrying around a first aid kit,” she said. “If my sister got a cut, I was right there, applying antibiotic ointment and bandaging it. I even fixed up the family pets when they got a scrape. I just had this need to take care of people, and as I grew older and learned more about what nursing is, I realized that was the career for me.”



Anna Blanchett, RN, BSN

“The program was tough, and working and going to school was challenging, but **I would do it again in a heartbeat.** I loved how accessible the program was, thanks to the online courses.”

When Ms. Blanchett, who grew up in Monroe, Michigan and now lives in Ann Arbor, where she works at the University of Michigan (U of M), enrolled for her associate degree, she said Mercy College was the obvious choice.

“The school had an excellent reputation, and I liked that it was faith-based,” she said. “I was not disappointed. I had a wonderful experience at Mercy College for both my associate degree and my Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN). I always knew I wanted my BSN, but I was eager to begin working in my field, and when I graduated from school and began working I wanted to take at least six months off from nursing school. I took a few elective courses at Washtenaw Community College while working as a nurse in Med Surg at U of M, then in about a year I applied to go back for my BSN. There was no question in my mind that I would do it at Mercy. The program was tough, and working and going to school was challenging, but I would do it again in a heartbeat. I loved how accessible the program was, thanks to the online courses.”

Ms. Blanchett took a chemistry class in person at Mercy College, but otherwise completed her BSN online.

“For that chemistry class, I could have taken it at Washtenaw, which was closer, but Professor Sucheck (**Treasure J. Sucheck, PhD**, Chair of Chemistry, Professor), was an amazing instructor, and taking her class was worth the drive. My online courses were excellent as well. I liked the core requirement of taking a religion class and appreciated that I learned to do IV starts and was capable of doing them on the job right out of school. Nurses I have worked with who went to other area schools had to learn those on the job. I felt incredibly well prepared with both the knowledge and skills required in my field, and I also felt I received a good ethical and moral base at Mercy College. I would like to thank all of the faculty and staff I interacted with while getting both of my degrees for all of their support, and I especially want to give a shout out to Professor **Luanne Kaiser**, who was my advisor. She was a huge help, and I loved having her by my side. She was like a ‘school mom’ to me and such an inspiration as she is continuing her own education.”

Ms. Blanchett, who is now a Critical Care Nurse, is already preparing to go back to school. When she is not working or preparing graduate school applications, Ms. Blanchett enjoys keeping active.

“I like to exercise,” she said. “I have run some area races, including a recent sprint triathlon, and I am training for a 10-mile race. I also love being outdoors and am looking forward to the Ann Arbor Summer Festival.”

Alternative Spring Break

DESTINATION:

**Lawrenceville,
New Jersey**

"The highlights of my trip were the days we got to go to Visitation House and work with the developmentally disabled. I really saw the light of Jesus through them..."
- Abbie

"The ASB Trip was a wonderful chance to grow as a person and in my relationship with God through service." - Leah



"I couldn't have imagined a better way to spend my spring break than providing service to those in need and taking the time to provide an escape from the pain and loneliness that those I served deal with on a daily basis." - Tricia

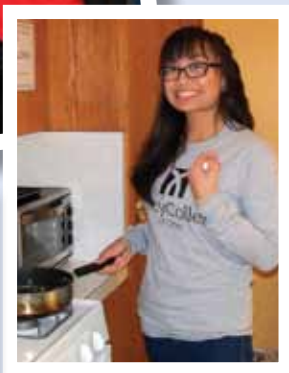
These words from some of the students who attended the 2013 Mercy College Alternative Spring Break Trip (March 4-9, 2013) give a flavor of what was experienced by those who went. **Sr. Sally Marie Bohnett, SND**, Campus Minister and Coordinator of Service Learning along with Nursing

Instructor **Sharon Bee**, led a group of eight students to Lawrenceville, New Jersey, an area with some of the highest rates of poverty in the state. They stayed at the Casa Retreat House in Lawrenceville which is part of the Center for FaithJustice, an organization that provides experiences of faith in action by serving those in need. They were divided into two working groups that traveled each day to give service to various community agencies around Lawrenceville. A home for developmentally challenged adults, a neighborhood thrift store, and an assisted living facility were just some of the places that gave the students the chance

to serve. Each evening, the group reflected on how the Mercy Core Values were experienced that day and prayed together in thanksgiving for each day's blessings. There was also an opportunity to hear a presentation on immigration and the path to getting a work visa given by a speaker the Center invited. The speaker offered a true glimpse of the challenges undocumented persons have today in our country.

The ASB Trip group was responsible for providing their own meals which encouraged working together — by shopping or making each meal. The experiences that were shared, the people they got to know, and especially the people they served all made this year's trip a lasting memory.

"What I learned most was ... helping people, no matter how small the task, is helpful."
- Ceresse



Alumni Reunion & Banquet

The annual alumni reunion and banquet was held on May 30 at The Premier. Some 140 alumni and guests gathered for a festive celebration. Alumni celebrating anniversaries from 70 years to 5 years and all those in between shared stories of their years at Mercy. **Dr. Maria Nowicki**, class of 1970, was the recipient of this year's Distinguished Graduate Award.

Dr. Nowicki has been associated with Mercy since the day of her birth at Mercy Hospital... we're not sharing the year, but it should be noted that the nation joins in celebrating with her every Fourth of July. She earned her diploma from Mercy School of Nursing before going on to earn her Bachelor of Nursing and Master of Education in Public Health from the

University of Toledo. She also holds a Master of Science in Nursing from Madonna College in Livonia, Michigan, and a PhD in Health Education from the University of Toledo. Since joining the faculty at Mercy School of Nursing in 1986, Dr. Nowicki has held a variety of positions, most recently that of Associate Dean of Nursing. Dr. Nowicki retired from this position on July 3.

The date for next year's reunion has been set for **May 29**. Mark your calendar now and plan to attend!



John Hayward presents **Maria Nowicki** with the Distinguished Graduate Award



CLASS OF 1958



CLASS OF 1973



CLASS OF 1953



CLASS OF 1963



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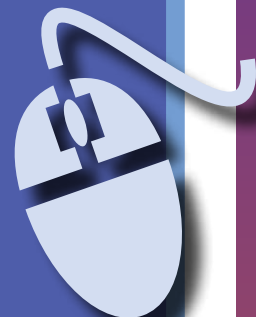
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Heart Walk...

On Saturday May 11, 2013 Team Mercy College participated in the American Heart Association Toledo Heart Walk. The College had a total of 53 members and collected \$2500 in donations. Approximately 25 team members walked on a cold, blustery day representing Mercy College efforts to help support this very important cause. The Mercy College Cardiovascular Technology program spearheaded this initiative along with help from Student Formation members **Megan Gray** and **Dave Crafts**.



Safety Fair Huge Success

Tuesday April 2nd and Wednesday April 3rd, Mercy College hosted its second annual Safety Fair. Resources provided at the fair included information on internet, fire, personal, driving safety, and more. The focus of this year's fair, however, was distracted and drunk driving. Part of this year's success was the collaboration with Catholic Healthcare Partners (CHP). Mercy College coordinated with the Risk Management and Marketing departments of the Northern Market, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), and the Toledo Police Department (TPD) to bring a driving simulator and intoxication "beer" goggles to campus. The driving simulator, set-up much like an arcade style video game complete with steering wheel and pedals, guided participants through scenarios like drunk driving and driving while texting. Mercy College students and Mercy employees from the Metro Mercy facilities were then able to experience the consequences of their impaired driving such as accidents, medical injuries, incarceration, and court hearings. Three pairs of "beer" goggles allowed participants to experience what it feels and looks like to take a field sobriety test while under various levels of intoxication.

News teams from Toledo channel's WTOL 11 and WNWO 24 visited campus during the fair to interview students and administrators about the event. These interviews were broadcast on the television news and on social media. CHP also gave Mercy College recognition for the event through social media. Many individuals participated in the simulations during the fair with 120 going through the distracted driving simulator and 118 signing pledge cards not to text while driving. Special thanks to **Sherry MacAfee**, Manager of Insurance Services and **Jennifer Pizio**, Associate Dean of Students for arranging this year's fair.



On April 1st Sigma Theta Tau International 'Zeta Theta Chapter-At-Large', held their annual induction ceremony. The following students were inducted into this nursing honor society from Mercy College of Ohio: (BSN-P) **Bobbi Schelken, Danielle Stewart, Ashley Trenchik, DeLaura Wright, Natasha Zvansky, Rachel Apling, Matt Chilton, Alicia Cline, Alisa Foos, Anna Frey, Blake Hardy, Cassandra Hart, Katy Leverenz, Rachel McClure, Kelly Mryzglod, Alyssa Perry, Lindsay Peterson, Vesna Radivojevic, Lindsey Reames;** (BSN-C) **Melissa Korpik, Laura Langenderfer, and Danah Jacks.**



Sounds of Spring



Gerri & Joe Kovaleski



Mary Ann & Luther Gautsche



Tom Brell



Bob Savage & Dick Faist



Judy & Carl Barnard, Carol Berman, & Ann Rotterdam

THE THIRD SOUNDS OF SPRING RAISES FUNDS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS AND SERVICE LEARNING

Mercy College hosted the third *Sounds of Spring* on Friday, April 19th in support of the College. Guests enjoyed food and beverages at the Toledo Club followed by an evening at the Toledo Symphony. The concert featured the "Andalusian Virtuosity - The Romantic Guitar" as part of the Classics Series.

Proceeds from *Sounds of Spring* fund scholarships and service-learning experiences, such as the annual Alternative Spring Break Trip and the mission trip to Guatemala that is part of the interdisciplinary studies course "Mission, Healthcare Ministry and Enculturation."

Major sponsors for the event included the Mercy College Auxiliary, Lathrop, and Sauder Manufacturing Co. Additional sponsors were The Andersons, The Cady Group, LLC, Mail Works, Desire2Learn, Creative Financial Partners, Mathews Books, Mercy Alumni Association and MT Business Technologies Inc. Thanks go to our sponsors and all those who attended the event.

From the Archives

Recently the family of **Bernadine Meyer**, class of 1947, donated letters and memorabilia to our Archives following her death in November 2012. History truly comes alive by listening to the stories shared by her niece and reading the articles and letters related to Bernadine's experiences at Mercy School of Nursing.

A letter from **Sr. Mary Caroline, RSM**, Director of Nurses, to parents of the students notified them that students were being given a few extra privileges. Each month, "Freshmen and Junior students will have 3 'all night' leaves; Seniors may have 4. These are to be taken with their 'all day' off duty. Students must return to the School for all classes. May we ask the cooperation of the parents in this matter."

Also included in Bernadine's "collection" was her bill for expenses related to graduation and State Boards. The graduation fee was \$15.00; graduation uniform, \$6.75; and State Board fee, \$10.00.

At her commencement, Bernadine received the Lyman Brewer Medal for surgery efficiency. On January 29, 1948, Bernadine was notified that she had passed the nurse registry and was awarded her Registered Nurse Certificate, number 46586. Bernadine served as a Cadet Nurse during World War II.

Circumstances and times have changed. One wonders what the memorabilia from the class of 2014 will say about their experiences at Mercy College of Ohio.

Bernheisel, continued from page 3

Dr. Bernheisel is a member of the Southern Nursing Research Society, Mercy College Nursing Honor Society, Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society for Nurses, Zeta Theta Chapter at Large, and has demonstrated interest and active involvement in the Mercy system by participating in the Mercy Institutional Review Board and Mercy Research Day Planning Committee and serving as Co-Chair of the Mercy Metro Research and Education Council. She also is a member of the Fallen Timbers Church and the Oak Openings Region Board. Dr. Bernheisel has shared her love of nursing research, especially in the area of leadership and spirituality. She has given numerous presentations at colleges and universities as well as conferences and even churches.

Dr. Bernheisel has received a number of awards throughout her career, including Flower Hospital's Clinical Leadership Award and Commitment to Professional Nursing Award; the Mercy College Hand, Heart and Mind Award and multiple listings in "Who's Who Among College Teachers."

In her spare time, Dr. Bernheisel enjoys sewing, reading, computers and Servant Leadership Development, which has a focus on the faculty and staff with genuine caring about the employee. The servant leader works to ensure the employees have all the tools required to perform their jobs, which includes removing obstacles and ensuring the health of the institution so employees can continue to do their jobs.

Mercy College students receive Northwest Ohio Nurses Association Leadership Awards



L to R **Anna Blanchett** (RN to BSN), **Emily Lumbardo** (ASN), **Kelly Dalton** (BSN) and **Maria Nowicki**.

Three Mercy College students were recently honored with Leadership Awards by the Northwest Ohio Nurses' Association. Associate Dean of Nursing, **Dr. Maria Nowicki**, gave opening remarks and Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) Mercy College Advisor, **Valerie Pauli**, presented inductees with their certificates.

The mission of the Honor Society of Nursing, STTI is to support the learning, knowledge and professional development of nurses committed to making a difference in health worldwide.



In Memoriam

12/10/2012	1953	Elizabeth A. Park Zeyen
02/14/2013	1965	Susan Roe Coker
02/20/2013	1944	Helen Herbert Kurtzman
03/23/2013	1952	Patricia Williams Swart Lee
03/29/2013	1960	Barbara Gorka Stoianowski
04/11/2013	1958	Barbara Hart Stevens
05/01/2013	1948	Suzanne Heatley Duffey
05/14/2013	1956	Elizabeth Baumgartner Douglas

Alumni News

Samantha Badas, class of 2010, has been employed at Mercy St. Vincent since graduation. In April 2013, Sam accepted a position at the University of Toledo Medical Center (UTMC). In conjunction with her employment, Sam will be pursuing her Masters as a Family Nurse Practitioner. Congratulations to Sam!!

Faith Lammers Stechshulte, class of 2008, recently wrote that she will be starting classes at Lourdes University in August in the nurse anesthesia program. She and her husband plan to move closer to Toledo this summer for this life changer! Faith hopes she will see some of the Mercy College professors and alumni at some clinical sites. Faith said, "I want to thank the many people at Mercy who helped support my foundation as a nurse and as a person! God bless!"

Patience Zivnoska, Class of 2012, is working for Duke Life Point – Marquette General Hospital

Amanda Rosenbrook, May 2013 CVT Echocardiography, is working for Toledo Cardiology Consultants

Email Update

The Advancement Office is seeking to update our records to include the personal email accounts for our Mercy alumni. About every 6 to 8 weeks, we send an email to all alumni with pertinent information of events happening at the College. We do not share email addresses with anyone outside the College community. Please send your email address to **charlotte.frary@mercycollege.edu** or use the form included with this newsletter.

Let us hear from you

The Mercy College Advancement Office is here to serve you. Keep your classmates and the college informed of your achievements, career changes, honors and accomplishments through the **Mercy News**.

Your full name (include maiden if appropriate)

Graduation year (earliest degree)

Street Address

City State Zip

Is this a new address? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you have a seasonal address? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Street Address

City State Zip

Home phone number (include area code)

Cell phone number (include area code)

Email address

Place of employment

Please submit news of any accomplishments on a separate sheet.

Mail this form to:

Sr. Barbara Davis, SC
2221 Madison Ave.
Toledo, OH 43604

You may contact her by email at **barbara.davis@mercycollege.edu** or by phone at **419-251-1704**. Updates can also be submitted from the Mercy College web site at: **mercycollege.edu/alumni-friends**

MERCY HOMECOMING 2013

Save the Date!

Friday, September 20

Fifth Annual **Scramble for Scholarships**

Saturday, September 21

Car Show and Family Fun Day
Mercy Night Out

Sunday, September 22

Alumni Mass and Brunch

We hope you will plan now to join us for these special weekend events!