

Mercy College students learn that '1Matters' while volunteering with Tent City

The 77 students in the NUR 430 course at Mercy College of Ohio participated in a number of community health nursing experiences by working with local agencies, institutions and grass roots organizations. Many were greatly impacted by one experience in particular - their involvement with 1Matters' Tent City in October 2012. This all-volunteer event, sponsored by Mercy and ProMedica, serves Toledo's homeless population.

Tent City brings together donations from area colleges, businesses, churches and individuals, and also provides some basic health services to those in need. Mercy College's NUR 430 students were intricately involved with the event, and the College's efforts began in advance of the weekend long event.

"**Candace Tavormina, MSN, RN, CNE**, Associate Professor of Nursing, ran a huge clothing drive in advance of Tent City," said **Cynthia Lipman, BA, MA, RN, MSN**, Instructor, BSN Program, Nursing Division. "Faculty, staff and students contributed as she spent six months collecting 121 coats, 47



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Youngstown Campus of Mercy College Celebrates 10th Year

January 3, 2013 marked the 10th anniversary of the opening of the St. Elizabeth/Youngstown Campus of Mercy College of Ohio. With the closing of the St. Elizabeth School of Nursing (SON) diploma program in 1996, the Humility of Mary Health Partners' (HMHP) Belmont Avenue facility in Youngstown was without an in-house nursing program. In 2003, HMHP and Mercy College worked in tandem to bring a nursing program back to the Youngstown facility.

A small group of six faculty and staff conducted the first courses with the first class of 26 students. Today, the ASN program accepts students each fall (August) semester. As the campus' enrollment increased through the years, additional faculty, adjunct faculty and staff also grew to its present size of seven full-time faculty, eight part-time adjunct faculty, and two support staff members.

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Tent City, continued from page 1

sweaters/sweatshirts, 62 winter shirts, 336 pairs of jeans, 13 pairs of socks, two pairs of shoes, 20 T-shirts, 27 hats, three scarves and two pairs of gloves. These were distributed to those in need at Tent City. Mercy College as a whole also collected 240 dental care items, more than 1,000 bars of soap and 500 feminine products and put together more than 100 hygiene bags and 25 dental bags to hand out. Once Tent City was set up, our students manned the area in which the clothes and hygiene items were distributed.”

The students also served as guides at Tent City.

“Each client who wanted to see someone in the medical tent had to register first and then was assigned a guide who would take them to the different areas,” Ms. Lipman explained. “Our students



served in this capacity. They also did the physical set-up of the medical tent, administered flu shots, checked blood sugars and blood pressures,

measured clients’ BMI and provided patient education specific to skin cancer. In addition, they assisted with the mobile mammograms by checking clients in and providing educational materials. They were fantastic, and we are going back next year. In fact, we’ve been asked to be part of the organizing committee for the next event.”

Tent City is one component of a larger service learning experience for the students in this senior-level class, and it really made an impression on its students.

“It was empowering to see such community support and people from all walks of life coming together to help others,” said student **Michelle Holland**.

Another student was so impressed with Tent City and a presentation she heard from a 1Matters member that she has been inspired to perform additional service with the organization outside of her class commitment.

“I was most influenced by Ken’s 1Matters presentation and working at Tent City,” said **Nicole Foels**. “I would love to volunteer with the organization and I even have talked to my daughter about it, and she wants to get involved too.”



Employee Spotlight: Megan Gray

Megan Gray, MEd, began her career in marketing, moved into education and ultimately found a position that brings together skills and experience from both fields. Her current position allows her to meet the needs of students and alumni as well as employers in our community. As the Director of Career and Professional Development for Mercy College of Ohio, Ms. Gray develops, publicizes, implements and evaluates career and professional development programs for the college's students and develops relationships with local employers and recruiters, among a host of other responsibilities.

“In this position, I am basically a one-person career center, and I love that this allows me to use both of my degrees.”

Ms. Gray earned a Bachelor of Arts in Communication with an emphasis in Public Relations from The Ohio State University and worked as a Marketing Coordinator, first for Trane, then for Industrial Power Systems in Toledo.

“While I enjoyed marketing and sales, at a certain point it did not fulfill my desire to help others,” Ms. Gray said. “After reflecting on my interests and experiences growing up with family members working in the education field,

I decided to go back to school to pursue a career in education. I enrolled at the University of Toledo, where I earned a Master's degree in Education, focusing on the 7th-12th grade curriculum, and obtained state licensure to teach English in those grades. I did some long-term substitute teaching in the Anthony Wayne and Sylvania school systems, and then saw there was a position available in the Testing Center at Mercy College.”

Ms. Gray applied for and got the job, which was a part-time, contingent position that enabled her to continue to substitute teach. She began the Testing Center role in November 2010.

“The more I worked here, the more I realized how much I liked working in higher education,” she said. “In January 2012, when this position became available, I applied for and got the position. I believe it was a matter of being at the right place at the right time. Things just fell into place as they were meant to be.

“In this position, I am basically a one-person career center, and I love that this allows me to use both of my degrees. I enjoy connecting with employers and recruiters, networking and promoting Mercy College in our community, and I get to use my education degree and English background to help students write well-developed resumes and cover letters. I also provide interviewing tips and conduct mock interviews and help students navigate online job applications. I present workshops and seminars to the graduating classes, talking to them about professionalism in the workplace, networking skills, etc. And if students need one-on-one help, they can come see me – before or even after graduation. I



Megan Gray

am available to our alumni as well.”

In fact, Ms. Gray even recently helped a Mercy College graduate write her letter of resignation as she prepared to change jobs.

“She wanted to be sure she was leaving on good terms and needed help wording her resignation,” Ms. Gray said. “I welcomed her request for help. I am always happy to serve as a resource to meet our students' and alumni needs. Whether a student or graduate is applying for their first job or their second, changing jobs or wanting to go back to school to advance in their field, whether they graduated last month or two years ago, I am here for them.”

In addition to her core responsibilities, Ms. Gray serves as Advisor for Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and is an active member of the Collegiate Employ-net Consortium and the National Association of Colleges and Employers. She also serves on Mercy College committees including Service Learning and Retention. In her spare time, she enjoys taking her dog on walks, practicing yoga and downhill skiing.

Alumni Spotlight: Maria Nowicki, PhD, RN



Maria Nowicki, PhD

Maria Nowicki, PhD, was born at Mercy Hospital and later earned her nursing diploma at the Mercy School of Nursing before going on to earn her Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Master of Education in Public Health from the University of Toledo. She also has a Master of Science in Nursing from Madonna College in Livonia, Mich. and a PhD in Health Education from the University of Toledo. She has held a number of positions with Mercy College and prior to that with the Mercy School of Nursing, advancing to Associate Dean of the Nursing Division, a position from which she will retire this July.

"In high school, I walked through the doors of Mercy knowing this was where I would go to school," she said. "I wasn't a little girl who dreamed of being a nurse all while I was growing up, but I guess you could say healthcare was in my blood. My mother was with the British Red Cross, and my father was a medic in the Army during World War II. In the 1960s, women

either went into nursing or became teachers. At the time, I didn't realize I would do both. After working as an RN for 8 years, my move into nursing education came quite by accident. I guess you could say it was serendipity. I've always believed that you should never put blinders on where your career is concerned, because you might miss out on a special opportunity. So, when a recruiter from the University of Toledo called me in 1978 after seeing my name in the paper for having completed my BSN and asked if I would consider doing some clinical teaching, I said yes."

Dr. Nowicki said she has truly enjoyed teaching ever since.

"I've always taught fundamentals of nursing," said the professor who once worked as a head nurse in Med-Surg and the Emergency Room. "It's fun to teach because you are taking the students from a place where they are afraid to even wake a patient up to watching them accomplish so much by the end of that first year. I remember in those early days when we still wore nursing caps, I would always keep an ammonia capsule tucked in my cap so I'd be ready when one of my new students felt a little faint during one of those first-time experiences. One student I had to whip out that capsule for later updated me on her career after she graduated. She had become a missionary and was in Africa delivering babies on dirt floors while bullets flew overhead. It is so amazing and gratifying to see how far our students go."

Dr. Nowicki taught at a number of other nursing programs before coming to what was then the Mercy School of Nursing as a Course Coordinator and First Level Nursing Instructor in 1986.

"I was hired by Sr. Patricia

Ann, who had been one of my instructors when I was in school here," Dr. Nowicki said. "It was kind of like coming home again when I came back here to work in 1986. In 1994, I took over as the Director of the Nursing Program, and I stayed in that role through our growth from a diploma program to an associate and then a bachelor's degree program, and we are continuing to grow. Watching and being a part of the growth here has been amazing. When the College first opened, everyone thought it would be great if it grew to 300 students. We've surpassed that many times over. One thing I have learned is that when you plan any program, figure out what you think you need in terms of space and resources then multiply that by three to accommodate the expansion that will rapidly occur. It has been very exciting to be a part of such tremendous growth."

Dr. Nowicki said she feels very fortunate to have worked with so many incredible faculty members over the years at Mercy College.

"I am grateful to have learned from them and hopefully taught them some things as well," she said. "Hopefully I have passed on to a new generation of nursing faculty some insights of value. I have been fortunate to work with a group of nurses who are really committed to ensuring our students receive a great education. Healthcare has changed so much since I entered the field. We are seeing patients who are much sicker today, and the explosion in healthcare technology has been phenomenal. We have had to learn and adapt to meet our patients' changing needs, and we have taught our students how important it is to never stop learning."

Dr. Nowicki said she also has enjoyed her work with the NLNAC (National League for Nursing



Maria Nowicki, 1970

“In high school, I walked through the doors of Mercy knowing this was where I would go to school...”

Accrediting Commission) as a site visitor and member of the National Evaluation Review Panel. Recently she had the opportunity to serve as a member of a National Sub-Committee appointed to Review and Revise Accreditation Standards for Baccalaureate Nursing Programs.

“I have had multiple opportunities to conduct site visits all across the country,” she said. “And they have validated that so much of what we are doing here at Mercy College is well above national standards. I enjoy learning from others’ best practices and bringing them back to the College but also confirming that we are doing a really good job here.”

While she plans to enter retirement this summer, Dr. Nowicki said that she will likely work again.

“I plan to relax for three months,” she said. “Then, I might want to get back to teaching fundamentals. I also have about 18,000 unfinished craft projects at home, and family and friends are making plans for me. A trip to England is on the calendar for September. Beyond that, I will keep my eyes open for new opportunities.”

10th Anniversary, *continued from page 1*

To date, 303 students have graduated from St. Elizabeth’s ASN program. An average of ninety-five percent of graduates are hired by Humility of Mary immediately after graduation in various HMHP facilities, which include ancillary sites such as St. Elizabeth Boardman Campus, St. Joseph Health Center in Warren, Assumption Village, ambulatory and diagnostic centers, and physician offices.

An anniversary mass was held at noon on February 18, 2013. Faculty, staff, current students, alumni, HMHP administrators, and Toledo campus leadership attended the celebratory mass and following reception. The reception showcased the composites of all nine previous graduating classes and pictorial displays of college events and graduations throughout the years. The Youngstown Campus continues to thrive with support from both the Toledo Campus and Humility of Mary Health Partners.



Jennifer Scacchetti receives the Florence Burke Scholarship from **Michael Whalen**, Director of Advancement and **Patricia Burke McAllen**, Associate Dean of Nursing, Youngstown Campus. The scholarship was established in honor of Dr. McAllen’s mother.

Youngstown ASN Student gets his pink on

In November 2012, for the second year in a row, St. Elizabeth-Youngstown ASN student **Julius Sims** contributed to National Breast Cancer Awareness Month in Northeast Ohio. Julius joined with other organizers, using the new Joanie Abdu Comprehensive Breast Care Center at St. Elizabeth Health Center as center stage, to promote breast health and preventive care by organizing a Pink Glove Dance video featuring hospital staff and other volunteers.

Mr. Sims, a first-year Mercy College ASN student and licensed practical nurse at St. Elizabeth Health Center, wrote and choreographed the script for the four-minute video, which was entered into a Pink Glove Dance Video competition. The original Pink Glove Dance video was produced by Medline in 2010 at Providence St. Vincent Medical Center in Portland, Oregon to raise awareness about breast cancer. It generated more than 13 million views on Youtube and inspired countless pink glove dance videos and events around the world. The response to the original video from the healthcare community, survivors and family members of survivors was so overwhelming and heartwarming that, in 2010, Medline created

a sequel featuring more than 4,000 healthcare workers and breast cancer survivors from San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge to New York's Times Square and many sites in between. Last year, with continued widespread interest in the videos and the campaign, Medline decided to host its first online nationwide competition to find the best Pink Glove Dance video. The competition featured 139 videos from hospitals, nursing homes, schools and other organizations throughout the U.S. and Canada. St. Elizabeth's video can be viewed at www.pinkglovedance.com/competition/entry-362



Priest from India helps Mercy College broaden students' understanding of and respect for other cultures, religions



Raphael Karekatt, MSFS

Mercy College of Ohio enjoys a number of global connections that have enriched the lives of its students and faculty and benefitted the local community as well as others around the world. These include courses that strive to educate students about other cultures, service learning and cultural immersion trips overseas, and faculty members from diverse

backgrounds. **Dr. Karen Elliott, CPPS**, Chairperson of the Religious Studies Department and Associate Professor of Religious Studies, was instrumental in connecting Mercy College with a Catholic priest from India who has served as an adjunct faculty member since 2007.

Raphael Karekatt, MSFS, was born and raised in Kerala, on the South Western tip of India. Fr. Karekatt and Dr. Elliott met at Barry University, Miami Shores, Fla., in 2000 when they both began their doctoral studies. There, Fr. Karekatt, who previously earned several degrees in India – a Bachelor of Arts in General Arts, Bachelor of Education and Bachelor of Theology – earned his Doctor of Ministry with a special focus on Moral Theology. Five years ago, Fr. Karekatt responded to Dr. Elliott's invitation to teach at Mercy College and joined the College as an adjunct faculty member, teaching *Foundations of Faith and Religion* in a land-based environment during the summer and *World Religions* online year-round.

"Father Raphael's depth of spirituality and his international experiences are a tremendous blessing to our students and the entire College community," Dr. Elliott said. "His outgoing personality encourages students to deepen their faith, and his caring, warmth and humor engage everyone he meets."

Fr. Karekatt has indeed had an impact on the way many students view those from other cultures and religions.

"In India, encountering diversity and engaging other traditions and regional, linguistic and religious perspectives is not an option, it is a way of life," Fr. Karekatt said. "As I share stories of my experiences living among and working with people of other religions and cultures, and as a Catholic priest, I have witnessed many students willing to let go of their stereotypes about other cultures, and in particular religions, and begin to appreciate the richness that each tradition brings."

Fr. Karekatt notes that Toledo is a diverse city, so it is important that students at Mercy College are being educated in a way that enables and encourages them to respect and embrace diversity.

"Various cultures, languages and religious traditions mix and mingle in a routine fashion in Toledo," Fr. Karekatt said. "Some of the students at Mercy College, however, are coming to Toledo from communities that are not as diverse and might not be as well-equipped to be at ease with the diversity and pluralism they find here. Gradually, through their education here, they can learn to appreciate those with different backgrounds and views. It is not easy, as I myself have experienced and witnessed, to eliminate stereotyping, but the students here have responded very well to our efforts to broaden their understanding and appreciation of other cultures and religions."

Fr. Karekatt is grateful that Dr. Elliott and Mercy College introduced him to Toledo. He recently moved to Toledo and is teaching theology and religion as a full time faculty member at St. Francis de Sales High School. He also continues his summer and online commitments at the College.

"I enjoy returning to Mercy," he said. "The Mercy College community is a very friendly learning community with a family feel. I also have tremendous respect for its recognition of the place it holds in the global community and its commitment to service learning and community service."

Mercy College CVT student gives special 'wedding gift' to the American Heart Association



Frank Butler and Brittany Manders

This would have been **Brittany Manders'** third year participating in the American Heart Association's (AHA) Heart Walk, but she and her fiancé, **Frank Butler**, will miss it because May 11 happens to be their wedding day. The couple has come up with a special way to contribute to the walk despite being unable to attend.

"Instead of purchasing wedding favors for our guests, we have chosen to donate \$300 to the AHA under the Mercy College Team for the Heart Walk," said Ms. Manders, who is a first-year CVT-Echocardiography student at Mercy College of Ohio and also a Health Unit Coordinator/Patient Care Tech at Mercy St. Charles Hospital. "The AHA is an important charity in our lives."

Ms. Manders and her fiancé have been together since the seventh grade, so she

is close with his family.

"His dad is like a second dad to me," she said. "And in 2009, at the young age of 44, he suffered from an incident caused by cardiomyopathy. His heart stopped beating, and he crashed his car. Fortunately, this happened in the front yard of a nurse and next door to a police officer who performed CPR on him. After a long time in the ICU in the heart center at St. V's and many surgeries, he is still here with us today. His experience played a large role in my decision to go back to school to become a cardiovascular tech. And, after that incident, Frank and I got involved in the heart walk. My grandmother also died from heart disease at the very young age of 40, so raising awareness is important to both of us."

As Ms. Manders and her fiancé were working on plans for their wedding, they began looking into ideas for wedding favors.

"We read about the new trend of donating to a charity instead of spending money on useless gifts," she said. "Oddly enough, the Heart Walk ended up being the same exact day as our wedding, so supporting the walk in lieu of giving out favors just felt like it was meant to be. I am 23, and Frank is 25, but we both had family members affected by heart disease at very young ages, so we are both very committed to helping to raise money to fight heart disease and raise heart health awareness. We are happy that we can make a contribution to the AHA."

News from our Alumni

Kendra Hetrick, ASN 2007

Youngstown campus, wrote to say that she began the CRNA program at Duke University in January 2013.

Margaret Morrison Murphy, class of 1963, wrote that she and her husband have been living in Florida since 1997. They have 4 children and 11 grandchildren. She can't believe that this year she and her classmates will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of their graduation from Mercy School of Nursing.

A Gift from Dr. Margaret A. Katzan

In December the Mercy College Foundation received a \$25,000 gift from the estate of Dr. Margaret A. Katzan. Starting in 1993, Dr. Katzan became a member of the first Board of Trustees and continued to serve until 2010. As a Trustee, Dr. Katzan's higher education experience was instrumental during the transition from a diploma program to a degree granting institution. Jamie Harter, Vice President of Administrative Services, recalls Dr. Katzan and the late Becky Kelly Robarge working to reformat the curriculum for the Associate Degree of Science in Radiology from the St. Vincent Medical Center School of Radiology diploma program. "She and Becky worked days to complete the transition of clock hours to credit requirements for each class" remembers Mr. Harter. Dr. Katzan was an administrator and long-time faculty member at the University of Toledo. She died on June 6, 2012 in Cary, North Carolina where she lived after her retirement from UT.



CAMP '13 SCRUBS

Camp Scrubs Campus Connection

**Do you know a teenager that tunes into *Grey's Anatomy* over *Survivor*?
Are they looking for a summer adventure that doesn't include hiking and s'mores?**

Camp Scrubs returns for a sixth year of healthcare, science fun.

Students entering 6th - 9th grades are invited to attend Camp Scrubs.

The camp offers hands-on activities and behind the scenes medical adventures only Mercy College could offer. Campers will enjoy a week packed with activities led by top healthcare professionals, hospital tours, and simulations in real clinical settings. Make sure to register STAT, space is limited.

CAMP SCRUBS I:

Students entering 6th or 7th grade

CAMP SCRUBS II:

Students entering 8th or 9th grade

Monday, June 10-13, 2013

COST: \$179 (Early Registration); \$199 (After April 30, 2013)

LOCATION: Mercy College, 2221 Madison Ave., Toledo, OH 43604

TO REGISTER VISIT: www.mercycollege.edu/short-term-education

Kroger Community Rewards Program

Mercy College Foundation is one of the designated recipients for this program. If you are enrolled and have designated the Foundation as your recipient, you must renew your designation in March or April. Go to www.krogercommunityrewards.com to complete this process.

If you are not currently enrolled and shop at Kroger's, please consider participating. The website noted above provides step-by-step directions for the registration process. Please note that the option of choosing the Mercy College Foundation is limited to the greater Toledo area.

IRA "Charitable Rollover" Extended

An article in The Wall Street Journal published on January 6, 2013 noted that as part of the "fiscal cliff" deal, Congress has resurrected a popular tax-law provision, known as the "IRA charitable rollover," that had expired at the end of 2011.

This rule allows many investors, age seventy and a half or older, to transfer as much as \$100,000 a year from an IRA (individual retirement account) directly to a qualified charity without having to count any of that transfer as taxable income.

Charitable rollovers for 2013 can be made until December 31, 2013.

As always, you will want to consult your financial advisor for questions related to this tax-law provision.

Please know that **Michael Whalen**, Director of Advancement at Mercy College, will be happy to speak with you regarding any donations to the College. You may contact him at **419.251.1824** or via email at michael.whalen@mercycollege.edu.

Distinguished Alumni Award

This award recognizes the humanitarian, professional, and philanthropic accomplishments of Mercy Alumni.

Alumni of the Mercy School of Nursing or Mercy College of Ohio who have graduated at least ten (10) years ago and who have demonstrated commitment to the Mercy Core Values of excellence, human dignity, justice, mercy, sacredness of life, and service are eligible. Alumni may self-nominate or submit a nomination for another Mercy graduate.

The nomination form can be accessed on the Mercy College webpage:

www.mercycollege.edu/alumni-friends/alumni-association/distinguished-graduate-award-nomination-form

You may also request a form by contacting **Sister Barbara Davis, SC** at **419.251.1704** or barbara.davis@mercycollege.edu. Applications are due no later than **April 15, 2013** for the this year's award.

In Memoriam

Since the last issue of Mercy News, we have been notified of the death of a number of our alumni. May God grant them eternal rest.

5/12/2012	1956	Frances Andrzejewski Sweeney
8/13/2012	1943	Helen Schweitzer Rauch
9/13/2012	1948	Gloria Kulczynski Martin
10/22/2012	1959	Rosemary Fritsch deBruyn
10/25/2012	1943	Nina VanAman Rohm
11/02/2012	1973	Jenny Metty
11/17/2012	1951	Delores Goebel Wilson
11/23/2012	1947	Bernadine M. Meyer
12/1/2012	1936	Mary Lucille Glantz Scheuer
12/2/2012	1990	Matthew Bohnsack
1/10/2013	1953	Margie Weiland Szaroleta
1/27/2013	1960	Judith Ann Staczek Nino
2/5/2013	1947	Sylvia Sobczak Domalski
2/20/2013	1956	Mary Jo Leahey Tillman
2/25/2013	1947	Betty Fritz Hallock

SAVE THE DATE



ANNUAL

*Mercy
Alumni
Reunion
& Dinner*

THURSDAY,
MAY 30, 2013

SOCIAL 5:00 p.m.

DINNER 6:00 p.m.

LOCATION

The Premier

4480 Heatherdowns Blvd.

Toledo, Ohio 43614

Invitations and registration forms will be mailed to all alumni in April.

For more information contact:

Sister Barbara Davis SC

419.251.1704

barbara.davis@mercycollege.edu



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:

Sister 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**.

A MISSION & SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISING EVENT



Sounds of Spring

FRIDAY, **APRIL 19**, 2013

5:30 PM
RECEPTION

Toledo Club

8:00 PM
CONCERT

Toledo Museum of Art Peristyle