



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

# COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES *Bronson School of Nursing* VITAL SIGNS BULLETIN



SUMMER / FALL 2010

## SAVE THE DATE

A Reunion & Homecoming for all graduates of the Bronson schools of nursing

**Linking the Past, Present and Future  
A call to action!**

**October 1 & 2, 2010**

in Kalamazoo

See page 11 for more information, your invitation and a registration form!

Register by  
September 17!

**Annual Bazaar**

Friday, December 10

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## Transitional Times — A message from Jackie Wylie, '62

Yes, these are times of transition for Bronson School of Nursing Alumni Association, times in which we have the unique opportunity to merge Bronson Methodist Hospital School of Nursing alumni and WMU Bronson School of Nursing (BSON) alumni to initiate an exciting new era of support for nurses and the nursing profession.

Think about where you found support to apply, enroll and complete your nursing education program. Where did you find mentors and resources to gain support and tuition affordably? Today's students have many of these same needs in a changing educational culture, and we are responding by adjusting alumni service goals and projects to meet the needs. In 2009-2010 we:

- Contributed \$3,000 to the WMU Bronson School of Nursing Endowed Scholarship Fund and awarded scholarships to nursing students **Susan Mott** and **Mary Woodhouse**
- Enabled members of the BSON Student Nurses' Association to attend the Michigan State Student Nurses Annual Convention with \$600 toward registrations, food and lodging
- Co-sponsored the annual scholarly nursing student program "Perceptual Discoveries in Nursing" on April 13, 2010. Alumni were acknowledged at the event and in the program for giving \$500
- Created two student travel abroad enrichment scholarships of \$1,500 each to be available for those seeking this option
- Awarded \$500 to a Bronson graduate practicing at Bronson Methodist Hospital, recognizing exemplary caring and compassionate support to patients and team members
- Hosted our Annual Bazaar charging only a modest registration fee
- Kept alumni in touch by budgeting monies to mail updates—like this newsletter—with the support of the College of Health and Human Services (CHHS) and by initiating the alumni Face Book, a "next generation" communication tool on which we have a growing presence.

I trust you will enjoy the updates in this newsletter and hope that you will take pride in what BSON has accomplished and the role alumni have played in supporting that work. Please know that your help is appreciated and is very much needed as we continue and fortify this invigorating partnership.

## A Note from Director Linda Zoeller

To me, this newsletter is a fine and fitting expression of how nurses come together to enjoy the past, reflect on progress and look toward the future! It is encouraging that our alumni and friends share both a tradition and a vision of building a cadre of well-prepared professional nurses who are able to address the challenges of a rapidly changing health care system.

Alumni and friends also share resources with us, and we are most grateful for the loyal support that makes nursing scholarships and other educational supports possible, even in these economically challenging times. We see a bright future of expanding first-rate opportunities for nursing education at WMU.

You will note in this newsletter that faculty members have been very productive in their review of the B.S.N. curriculum and in their endeavors as scholars and teachers. They are committed to providing students with an excellent education, and students are responding with accomplishments and contributions of their own, in the classroom and the community.

**See Zoeller, page 4**

# Student Updates

## Event promotes nursing scholarship

On Tuesday, April 13, 2010 at WMU's Bernhard Center, the WMU Bronson School of Nursing held its Eighth Annual Scholarly Event titled *Perceptual Discoveries in Nursing*. This year's event featured keynote speaker **Kelley Pattison, M.S.N., R.N.**, with presentations by **Julianne Bender, B.S.N., R.N.** and student nurses **Amy Bowron** and **Melissa Robbins**.

Topics discussed included opportunities, responsibilities and contributions that come about as part of memberships in professional nursing organizations, as well as the implementation and organizational consequences of creating a mentoring culture. The affair also included dozens of student poster presentations.



(l to r) Above: Julianne Bender, Kelley Pattison, Amy Bowron, Melissa Robbins; Lower Right: Katie DeGregorio, Britt'Ni Davis, Lisa Cannon, Katie Devine



(l to r) Above: Anthony Childs, Nyasha Chickwenhere, Jonathan Rachac, Linda Zoeller, Kyle Reidenbach

**Special thanks to event co-sponsors:**  
**Upsilon Epsilon Chapter of Sigma**  
**Theta Tau International Honor**  
**Society of Nursing, Alumni**  
**Association of Bronson Methodist**  
**Hospital, Dr. Sharie and Sidney Falan,**



Maria Dunning, left, interviews EC's volunteer receptionist Ms. Lois Keys

## Students visit senior center

Each fall and spring, BSON students visit the Ecumenical Center (EC) as a community agency assignment for their *Wellness Care of the Elder* class. WMU Faculty Specialist **Patricia Fuehr** coordinates the EC program. In the spring of 2010, nursing students **Chelsea Carbonneau** and **Mary Beth Deschryver** worked with EC seniors on Tuesdays.

On Thursdays, **Maria Dunning** and **Brian Meade** were on site and under the supervision of Faculty Specialist

**Kathleen Marchiondo**. The students interact with the seniors, taking blood pressures, talking to them about their individual health issues, and conducting interviews. Brian and Maria's focus was on recognizing signs and symptoms of disease for age-related illnesses in seniors.



Delroy Clark, left, discusses world events with WMU nursing student Brian Meade

## Students stress bicycle safety



Students Adam Quiring (l) and Mercedes Bakian at Edison

In March 2010, BSON, Safe Kids Kalamazoo County and Kalamazoo County Elementary Schools joined forces to promote bicycle safety. Edison Environmental Science Academy and Spring Valley were among the schools students visited. Supervised Faculty Specialist II **Wendy Kershner**, they provided information about the brain's structure, brain injury, the need to wear bike helmets, and rules of the

road using hand and traffic signals. Safe Kids of Kalamazoo County provided each student with a helmet.

Bicycles are associated with more childhood injuries than any other consumer product except the automobile. Safe Kids Kalamazoo County, founded in 1989, is led by The Children's Hospital at Bronson.

## Pastrana named Presidential Scholar

Congratulations **Shana Pastrana**, BSON's 2010 Presidential Scholar, the highest academic honor WMU can bestow on its undergraduates. Shana was selected by BSON faculty based on criteria for the award: general academic excellence, academic and/or artistic excellence in academic majors, and intellectual and/or artistic promise. She was recognized with other top seniors at the 30th annual Presidential Scholars Convocation on March 25.



Shana Pastrama, right, with Dr. Joni Jones

## Dick's Digest—Looking Back

The past 40+ years have been a fun trip of sharing memories with you, as I reminisced about those special days and events during your three short years at Bronson Hospital School of Nursing.

You may have known me during the 40s when I was Dick the Buffer, or the 50s and 60s when I was the electrician, or the last eighteen years before retirement when I was the Department Head of the Maintenance Department. We all hold certain memories of those special times, whether it was the Big Dorm, North Home, South Home, Pine Home, Cedar Home or Truesdale Hall that you lived in. As you think back in time and listen closely, maybe you can hear a familiar voice saying, "Man on Floor." At the same time, as I reflect, I may hear a student nurse voice saying, "Dick, can you help us?"

Now as I close Dick's Digest, and Looking Back for the last time, it is my hope that I will be remembered as a friend of the student nurses. I have pleasant thoughts of my "student years" and have been blessed by the many years of memories. Thanks to all for making Dick's Digest possible.

## Thanks to Dick VanderMolen, "Man on the Floor"



Sincere thanks to **Dick VanderMolen** for his dedication and devotion to the Alumni Association of BMH School of Nursing. For many, many years, Dick authored *Looking Back*. His informative, thought-provoking articles often brought back memories for graduates of the 1950s through the 1980s.

Dick was the "go-to" person for the student nurses during those years. If something needed fixing or you needed someone to talk with, you could count on Dick. The residents of the dorms throughout the years remember playing jokes on Dick and having good times along with school work and *scrubbing floors*.

We'll miss your insights, Dick, and know we will continue to see you at future alumni activities. Thanks for everything you have done for students and alumni throughout the years.

## Sympathy

### To the families of:

Annette Brooker Curtis '30, 5/29/10

Grace Clark Crocker '31, 3/3/09

Zelma Yeager DeHaan '35, 3/31/10

Marquita Land VanderHoef '35, 8/18/09

Helen Cole Carrow '36, 7/22/09

Katherine McCoy Niessink '36, 4/4/09

Aino Olli Schultz '36, 6/20/10

Alta Conklin Cowgill '37, 4/29/09

Lucille King Dykehouse '40, 1/20/10

Orvilla Colby Somers '43, 12/7/09

Elizabeth Afman Gren-Bailey '48, 5/2/09

Joyce Harder Mansberger '49, 5/7/09

Ruth Cardiff Matteson '49, 4/2/10

Dorothy Churchill Dudgeon '52, 3/5/09

Marymargaret Proxmire Warren '53, 2/2/09

Susan Mindrum Welch '59, 1/8/10

Karen Hoke Cook '62, 3/30/09

Ruth Lam Ter Beek '63, 3/1/10

Marian DeFeyer Chavez '67, 10/29/09

Pam Baszler Yoder '68, 5/12/09

Lois K. Blocher '70, January 2008

Lesley Ashworth '74, 3/21/10

Christine M. Strom '74, 4/4/10

### To:

Karmena Lubavs Smith '59 on the death of her husband, in January 2010

Joanne Ellinger Fassett '63 on the death of her husband in March 2008

## December bazaar a success

The BSON Alumni Association Bazaar was held in December 2009 at Bronson's Gilmore Center. The association was joined by the Kalamazoo Chapter of Medical Assistants and the Bronson School of Nursing Student Nurse Association. The support of many alumni helped make this another successful bazaar.

Over \$600 was collected and will be used to support nursing education and the scholarship fund. Financial assistance for other need-specific projects will also be available. Thanks to everyone who helped **Marie McLeieer** make this a success.

## Alumni Update—Let's stay in touch with each other—Alumni Update

— Visit [www.wmich.edu/hhs/nursing](http://www.wmich.edu/hhs/nursing) on line and:

— click on the  on the right. Then, sign up with Facebook and share.

— click on the [Alumni Updater](#) link there on the right. Then, fill in and submit the form online.

— Contact Office Associate Kristie Sturmoski at (269) 387-8152 or [kristie.sturmoski@wmich.edu](mailto:kristie.sturmoski@wmich.edu)

# Faculty & Program News



Assessment/Evaluation Committee Members  
(l to r) Back Row: Kelly Ackerson, Sue Nelson, Melinda Gevaart, Joyce Thompson.  
Front Row: Kimberly Searing, Joni Jones (chair), Hailey Stampfly. Not Pictured: Teri Davis, Nichole Hindenach

BSON was selected to receive the 2010 WMU Assessment Excellence Award, given annually by the WMU Office of Institutional Effectiveness to a unit which demonstrates a strong commitment to assessment as a method of improving program quality. The award was given for the work of faculty and Assessment/Evaluation Committee members in making significant improvements to the undergraduate nursing curriculum and developing and implementing a new tool for clinical evaluation of student learning.

In 2004, BSON determined that curriculum changes were necessary based on analysis of data collected since the school's inception in 1994. The curriculum was revised and implemented, and the *Assessment of Student Learning Plan* was then developed, as well as a tool for ongoing evaluation of the clinical component of the curriculum.

Use of this tool over four years improved communication among faculty members and allowed for early identification of students at risk for clinical failure. Positive results have been evidenced by significantly improved licensure examination pass rates and percentile rankings on a capstone standardized examination. For example, the B.S.N. NCLEX pass rate is over 97%. The clinical evaluation tool was copyrighted by the WMU Board of Trustees in 2006.

## Zoeller, con't. from page 1

Thanks to **Amal Mansour**, members of the Bronson alumni board and **Dr. Sally Vliem** for their work in coordinating what promises to be a great program. We hope that many alumni will attend this event, which includes tours of the Nursing Labs and Simulations we are using. In addition, you'll have an opportunity to tour Bronson Hospital and see all the changes and updates that have occurred there.

I do hope to see you in October, and will welcome a visit at any time we can arrange. Until then, I wish you all the best and hope you will enjoy the rest of these summer days.

**Dr. Yvonne Ford** was elected a member-at-large to the board of the Clinical Information Systems Working Group of the American Medical Informatics Association, 2010-2012. She was also invited to participate in a workshop titled "Handoffs and Handovers: Collaborating in Turns" at the 2010 Association for Computing Machinery's Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work.

**Dr. Ruth Zielinski** was one of eight recipients of the ProQuest 2009 Distinguished Dissertation Awards from the Rackham Graduate School at the University of Michigan. The award includes a \$1,000 honorarium and is given in recognition of the most exceptional scholarly work produced by doctoral students who completed their dissertations in 2009. Dr. Zielinski is the first nursing professional to receive this honor.

**Kathleen Marchiondo** published the following article in the *American Journal of Nursing*: Marchiondo, K. (2010), Emergency: Recognizing and treating vasovagal syncope. *AJN*, 110(4), 50-53.

BSON Director **Dr. Linda H. Zoeller** has been appointed to a new state board charged with transforming nursing education in Michigan. The Michigan Nursing Education Council is a leadership group composed of nursing educators, practitioners and policy makers who will act as an advisory board in the face of what is predicted to be a severe nursing shortage facing Michigan.

The council was established by the Office of the Chief Nurse Executive within the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) and will ensure that recommendations by the depart-

ment's Task Force on Nursing Education are implemented. Those recommendations include creating a system of nurse residency programs in Michigan for all newly licensed graduates, giving high priority to quality and safety in all nursing education programs and increasing the number of registered nurses educated in the state.

**Dr. Sharie Falan** (right) has had two articles accepted for publication in international journals: *Using similarity theory to examine inconsistencies in nursing communication* in *Communications of the ICISA* and *Concept analysis of similarity applied to Nursing Diagnoses: Implication for educators* in the *International Journal of Nursing Terminologies and Classifications*.



Falan was also a significant contributor to a major national initiative in health informatics: Technology Informatics Guiding Education Reform, or the T.I.G.E.R. initiative.

In addition, she played a key role in establishing the WMU Center for Health Information Technology Advancement (WMU-CHITA), a project to adopt and implement required Health Information Technology for Health Care Reform in Southwest Michigan. The center is a collaborative effort between faculty members of the Department of Business Information Systems at the Haworth College of Business and BSON. It is intended to integrate faculty talents to pursue external resources for quality research, better educate and prepare students, and partner with the community.

# Alumni News & Notes

*It was good to hear from alumni following newsletters sent in March 2009 and February 2010. Address and employment updates are always appreciated, as are the extended notes shared here. To read more updates, visit [www.wmich.edu/hhs/nursing](http://www.wmich.edu/hhs/nursing) and click on the  on the right. Then, sign up with Facebook and share your news!*

Hello, fellow Alumni of Bronson! It sometimes takes a while but eventually I do get all my mail gathered into one place and can answer it. For many years my address for this Bronson mail was at our (now) summer home in the Queen Charlotte Islands of British Columbia, Canada, but now we spend more of the year in Hawaii, keeping nice and warm. Our daughter, Janet, brought the mail from my mailbox up there to me here when she arrived last month, and I have to say I am delighted that the Alumni Association is able to continue. Bronson was such a huge part of our lives, and can never be even shoved to the edges of remembrance.

I turned 75 last August, and for the most part am just fine, thank you! Last year went to a doctor for the first time in about 40 years, when accidental discovery was made of really REALLY high B/P. This is now under control, and a few other things have been tiddled into shape, so both Bruce, at 76, and I, are having a fine time. He is continuing to work for a law firm, in his field of expertise...estate planning and estate taxes, and is highly valued as an expert with such long experience. I have a wonderful time with art-related activities, galleries, the Academy of Arts, the Hawaii Opera Theatre, and a really passionate interest in Chinese antiques, especially Peking glass (jade trees) from the 1920s, 30s, and early 1940s. I know it sounds peculiar for a Michigan girl, but these things are totally fascinating and incredibly intricate and hand-made beautiful. And I still do a good deal of writing, photography, and read incessantly. Life is, indeed, very good, as I hope it is for all of you!

**Kit Bosker Gifford '54**

Thanks for all of the hard work you do for those that are not near! My thoughts often drift back to the good old days. I miss seeing so many faces! **Susan Miller Eavy '85**

I was hired in August, three weeks after passing my boards, at Kalkaska Memorial Health Center's Emergency Department. It's a small, rural ER and I love it. I learn so much every day. Go Broncos! **Sadie Hubbell '09**

I work at Spectrum Health in Grand Rapids, am applying for DNP at Grand Valley State University. **Teresa Boersma '06**

I am retired and volunteer at Tidewell Hospice in Sarasota. Jim and I have three grandchildren. We enjoy living in the "Sunshine State." **Joan M. Garrett '56**

I enjoy private duty through an agency, MAXIM Healthcare, Inc, hoping to retire soon. **Kay Gowens '61**

I enjoy reading Bronson News. **Mary E. Gillam '49**

I retired from Battle Creek VA Hospital in 2001 and continued on a fee basis until 2009, teaching CPR and helping in Employee Health. I serve as president of Shawn, Inc., a non-profit that provides support to adults with disabilities. **Sara L. Collison '65**

Thanks for continuing The Bulletin. I retired in 2005 and moved back to Hillsdale. I volunteer for Hospice and work at a free clinic here. Nursing has been good to me and I have never regretted pursuing it as a career. I spent 18 years in Sierra Leone, W. Africa as a missionary nurse and the rest of my time working as a nurse anesthetist in the Flint and Grand Blanc area.

**Sharon Frank '61**

Hello! Add my positive thoughts to the changes in alumni news-sharing along with thanks to all who have worked to strengthen the Bronson-WMU bond. Secondly I sadly report the death of my husband in March 2008. We were looking forward to our 41st wedding anniversary. He had lived for 13 years with the effects of a stroke. **Joanne Ellinger Fassett '63**

I retired in December 2005 and then worked per diem until April 2007. After 24 years, I downsized my living location in October 2009. I'm still organizing to fit stuff in place. Since my husband has been in a nursing home for two years, I manage our rental properties, and I also do limited volunteering.

**Phyllis E. Carew '56**

I have worked as a volunteer in patient care with Mid-Michigan Hospice and Home Care since 1994 here in Midland, Mich.

**Winifred R. Milford '53**

BSON graduate **Samantha Barrett**, R.N., B.S.N., and BSON Assistant Professor **Dr. Mary Ann Stark** co-authored an article that has been published in The Journal of Perinatal Education, Winter 2010, Volume 19, Number 1. The article is entitled *Factors Associated With Labor Support Behaviors of Nurses*.

**Angela Hyatt Macke '92** is the founder of Light of Day Organics, an organic tea farm located in Traverse City, Mich. Angela was named Environmentalist of the Year for Business (2007) by the Northern Michigan Environmental Action Council and Michigan Small Business of the Year (2008-2009) by the State of Michigan and Governor Granholm.

## WMU welcomes class reunion visits

What a pleasure to meet these Bronson alumni groups at the WMU College of Health and Human Services during their class reunions in years past! (Thanks to **Mary Bushhouse**, **Janet Duggan** and **Beth Fletcher** for photo IDs.) We're looking forward to meeting members of the class of '60 for their 50th on September 24 this year. Please note that we welcome alumni visits at any time.



**Class of '53** (l-r) Back row: Lois Bradley Wilkinson, Mary Lowe Bushhouse, Lorraine McCarty Wilson, Mary Lou Phelps McConkie, Gladys Huffman DePagter, Mary Lou Hicks Duffey, Mary Lee Moyer Korita, Ellen Dixon Weston. Seated: Suzanne Barrett VanDyken, Janice McClellan Duryea, Louise Tarnow Smith, Barbara Olds Johnson.



**Class of '58** (l-r) Standing: Janet Drake Duggan, Kathryn Smith, Joanne Van Naarden, Marcia Williams Wardell, Marian Burkey, Ruth Weller, Janet Huepenbecker Powell, Darlene Rupp Patzer. Seated: Virginia Lane Babbitt, Rita Ossenheimer Lowell, Marlene Gabriel, Rosemary Curry Bauer



**Class of '59**, (l-r) Back Row: Barbara Klenk Holmes, Beth Simpson Fletcher, Sharon MartinDaniels, Martie DePond Dull, Beverly Klimp Bloomquist, Carol Smith Overly, BSON Director Linda Zoeller. Front Row: Mary Roberts Kellogg, Stephanie Albrecht Sundholm, Peggy Brott Beach, Sheila Robinson Ware.

### This and that from in and around Bronson...

by Rosemarie Nedeau-Cayo

As I am composing this in May 2010, it is Nurses Week. Happy Nurses Week every week! Here are a few highlights from Bronson, starting with demonstrations of nursing excellence over the last year:

- ~ Awarded the Magnet Designation, recognizing excellence in nursing practice; Bronson nurses are in the top 5%!
- ~ 55 nurses (up from 40 in '08) were recognized for achieving placement on the Nursing Professional Advancement Ladder.
- ~ 35 nurses earned a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing Degree; six nurses earned master's degrees; one earned a Doctorate of Nursing Practice. [Note: 44% of Bronson nurses hold degrees at these levels, moving toward National Advisory Council on Nurse Education and Practice urging of at least 66% by 2010.]
- ~ 46 Bronson nurses earned national certifications in various specialties; 26 serve as adjunct faculty for local colleges.
- ~ The Active Staffer scheduler system, implemented in 2009, eliminates paper and person-hours, allows staff to access schedules online, reveals schedule gaps, and facilitates requests for time off, etc.
- ~ IntelliDOT, implemented in 2009, is a wireless handheld device that enables safe administration of meds at the bedside. It lets caregivers verify the five rights of medication management quickly and comprehensively and charts the medication, eliminating the paper records.
- ~ Bronson has partnered with CE Direct, a Nursing Spectrum product, to provide access to unlimited free, online continuing education courses. The product features access to more than 450 ANCC online courses ranging from 1-30 accredited contact hours, 35 subject areas, and instant receipt of a printable CE certificate.
- ~ One of the ways Bronson helps nurses keep up with changes in processes, policies and equipment is the Nursing Practice Calendar, an online site where changes are identified, including related supporting documents and education.
- ~ An RN Satisfaction Survey revealed that Bronson nurses rate job enjoyment and perceived care more highly than the national average. They also have fewer patients on average than the national comparison.

And, the hospital is doing well too, as indicated by the following 2009 recognitions:

- ~ Thomson Reuters' 100 Top Hospitals® for cardiovascular care and 100 Top Hospitals® Performance Improvement Leaders award for the fastest 5-year rates of consistent improvement in the industry
- ~ Distinguished Hospital for Clinical Excellence for achieving quality outcomes in the top 5% in the country
- ~ American Hospital Association-McKesson Quest for Quality Prize® for leadership & innovation in quality, safety and patient care
- ~ National Research Corporation 2008/2009 Consumer Choice Award for providing the highest quality healthcare in the Kalamazoo-Battle Creek area
- ~ Organ Donation Medal of Honor, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, for its success in raising organ donation rates
- ~ With 32,907 pounds, Bronson donated the most to the Michigan Harvest Gathering food drive according to Michigan Hospital Association figures.

## Alumni celebrate national nurses week and nursing excellence



Pictured on left: (l to r) Alumni VP and acting President Jackie Wylie '62, Alumni Secretary Kay Hanson '64, Alumni Hospitality Chair Amal Mansour '85, and award recipient Gwen Boyle '80

Pictured on right: (l to r) WMU-BSON graduate and co-chair of the Professional Practice Committee Tennile Chavous '06, award recipient Ann Killman '85, and President & CEO of Bronson Healthcare Group Frank Sardone.



On Tuesday, May 11, Bronson Methodist Hospital sponsored an Excellence in Nursing Celebration to honor nurses and to observe National Nurses Week. At the celebration, the Bronson School of Nursing Alumni Association awarded a \$500 scholarship to recognize a deserving nurse professional who works at Bronson and is also a hospital school of nursing graduate. **Gwen Boyle**, B.S.N., R.N. from Education Services was selected by alumni association members with the assistance of the Nurses' Week planning committee.

**Ann Killman**, also a nurse in Education Services, received the Award for Impact from Bronson Methodist Hospital at the event. This award recognizes clinical excellence, cost effectiveness, efficiency in care delivery, healing environment and safety. Ann's nominator stated, "During the past year, Ann has managed the IntelliDOT project with expertise and diplomacy, and has significantly impacted how medication administration delivery takes place at Bronson."

### Bronson Connections—Can you *relate* to this?

We already know that the Bronson schools of nursing have been connected and relating productively to each other for a long time. Looking into this "connection" a bit more has resulted in confirming several relationships—as well as relatives—that unite us, provide for continuity, and are just plain interesting.

Talk about uniting us, both members of the following married couples are alumni: **Richard** (Honorary Degree) '86 and **Betty** '51 **Vander Molen**; **Paul** '87 and **Teresa** '86 **Kokales**; **Peter** '87 and **Tammy** '87 **Olsen**; **Christopher** '89 and **Carrie** '80 **Kotecki**; **John** '78 and **Lynn** '78 **Maynard**; and **Charles** '94 and **Sandra** '93 **Green**.

The schools are also related by other family ties, including: **Kathryn Garrod West** '76, her mother, **Rachel Lietzke Gerrod** '50 and her aunt, **Gertrude Garrod Sparks** '47; **Kelly Moyer Hartley** '85 and her sister, **Deanna Moyer Walter** '84; **Phyllis Stapert Triezenberg** '64 and her neice, **Beth Triezenberg Dockweiler** '82; **Carol Fitzpatrick Lawrence** '79 and her late mother, **Bette Madden Fitzpatrick** '47; **Laurie Jones Bittle** '86 and her sister-in-law, **MaryBeth Sanders-Jones** '96; **Vickie L. Zimmerman** '76 and her late aunt, **Paula Clancy Whiteley** '41; **Kelly Dorgan Ruark** '87 and her mother, **Marcia Dalman Dorgan** '63; **Susan Miller Eavy** '85 and her husband's late aunt, **Margaret Plass Odle** '40; **Jill Scheffers Mulder** '77, her daughter **Leslie** (a senior in the B.S.N. program), her aunt, **P. Ruth Scheffers Jepkema** '49, her cousin by marriage, **Susan Mejeur Jepkema** '78, and her sister-in-law, **Terri Klimp Scheffers** '81.

The following individuals are graduates of both schools: **Marla Atkinson**, **Jill R. Beison**, **Karen Sue Bergman**, **Rebecca S. Bogema**, **Gwendolyn Lee Boyle**, **Lynette R. Burleson**, **Jeanne C. Chilla**, **Suzan Traxler Couzens**, **Tanya Deary**, **Kristin A. Donewald**, **Kristine M. Ebbert**, **Deborah Sue Foster**, **Debra J. Griffioen**, **Wendy Jo Hamlin**, **Lydia Arissa Hartman**, **Connie Lynn Hirsch**, **Judith A. Jansen**, **Paul Kokales**, **Joan Lewis**, **Mary R. Lincoln**, **Jennifer L. McCleary**, **Ruth A. Pushie**, **Jerri D. Robinson**, **Margaret A. Shoemaker**, **Sarah Joan Simpson**, **Kelly L. Stermer**, **Angela Yvonne Tarnow**, **Kristan Anne Thompson**, **Patti Lynn Tibble**, **Lisa McMillan Washington**, **Patricia Jean Weatherwax** and **Colleen Ann Westra**. And, current BSON faculty members **Joni Jones** and **Sally Vliem** are graduates of the Bronson Hospital nursing school.

Thanks to those who shared their connections! To add your own connections, or make corrections, please contact Office Associate **Kristie Sturmoski** at (269) 387-8152 or [kristie.sturmoski@wmich.edu](mailto:kristie.sturmoski@wmich.edu).

# Donations

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***Sincere and heartfelt thanks to these donors who contributed to benefit nursing students and nursing education with a gift to the WMU Foundation between March 1, 2009 and May 15, 2010.***

Abbott Laboratories Fund  
Faith Abel '64  
Diane Abshagen '72  
Beverly Adams '67  
Laura Adkins  
Melanie Allan '74  
Sally Amador '62  
Ione Ambrose '49  
Roxanne '53 and Donald Anderson  
Phyllis Anderson '71  
Mark and Susan Anderson  
Tena Anderson  
Debra Angvick '78  
Nancy Ausema '73  
Virginia Babbitt '58  
Traci Balch  
Denise Barlage '81  
Christine Barndt '73  
Kate Barnes  
Valorie Barton-Krogmann  
Marilyn '53 and Philip Battjes  
Whitney Bauer  
Vivian Baylis-Hunt '07  
Melissa Beach '96  
Peggy Beach '59  
Rebecca Beaty '80  
Linda Becker '64  
    In memory of Marian Dunlap '39  
Janice Bellingham '62  
Mary Benjamin  
    In memory of Roger Smith  
Steven and Lynne Bennink  
Beverly Benzenberg '51  
Katie Berry '53  
Janet Berry '50  
Linda Berry '72  
Julie Betzler '91  
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Merlene Black '69  
Laura Bloomensaat '73  
Wanda Boekhout '47  
Donald and Judith Boensch  
Deborah Bohm '05  
Gail Bonebrake '69  
Borgess Health  
Beverly Borton '68  
Robin Botma '83  
Elizabeth Bower '59  
Stacey Bowers  
Mary Boyce '50  
Joyce Branch '61  
Tobi Breisach '78  
Janet '76 and Kenneth Brennan  
Bronson Healthcare Group  
    In memory of Roger Smith

Bronson Methodist Hospital Class of 1959  
Bronson Methodist Hospital School of  
    Nursing Alumni Association,  
Bronson School of Nursing Honor Society  
Virginia Brouse '56  
F. Marilyn Bryant '54  
Beverly Buel '54  
Pamela Buis '75  
Michelle Burdick  
Joanne Burgess-Wright '93  
Ronald and Elaine Burkhardt  
    In honor of Joyce Thompson  
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**Many Thanks also to these alumni and friends of the Bronson Methodist Hospital School of Nursing who gave to the BMH Alumni Association between March 1, 2009 and May 15, 2010:**

Janet VanEck Smarr '42  
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Gracie Harris '85  
Audrey Ramsey '40 and the Class of 1940  
Susan Miller Eavy '85

    In memory of Margaret Plass-Odle '40

Patricia Rose, Carole Apotheker and  
Doug Somers, In memory of  
Orvilla Colby Somers '43, their mother  
Joan "Mercy" Garrett '56  
    In memory of Helen Meaker Bowser '56  
Gaydene Gipson,  
    In memory of Pat Hurd Massey '59.

Every attempt has been made to be accurate and complete in these listings. Please contact Kristie Sturmoski at (269) 387-8152 or kristie.sturmoski@wmich.edu if you have questions about it. Also, please note that donors who are listed as giving in honor and/or memory of an individual or individuals may have provided other donations also. And, a single listing may represent more than one gift.

## Registration Form

Yes, I/we will attend the Bronson schools of nursing reunion and homecoming!

Linking the Past, Present and Future—a call to action!

October 1-2, 2010



Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Year(s) of graduation: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fees: \_\_\_\_\_ \$45 \*Friday and Saturday activities \* Fee includes CEU credits (pending)  
(Check one.) \_\_\_\_\_ \$30 \*Friday activities only for attendance at Friday keynote  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$20 \*Saturday activities only address and Saturday presentation.

Enclosed find a check or money order for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*You are invited to attend*

**Linking the Past, Present and Future—a call to action!**

*A Reunion & Homecoming*

*for all graduates of the Bronson schools of nursing*

*October 1 & 2, 2010 in Kalamazoo, Michigan*

*at Western Michigan University, the College of Health and Human Services  
and Bronson Methodist Hospital*

To register, please fill out the Registration Form above and send it—with your check or money order—to  
Kristie Sturmoski, Bronson School of Nursing, Western Michigan University

1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5345

**Deadline: September 17, 2010**

Contact: Amal Mansour, Event Coordinator

Phone: (269) 323-7933 E-mail: [amalmansour6288@yahoo.com](mailto:amalmansour6288@yahoo.com)

Event coordinator **Amal Mansour** and alumni/school leadership are excited and delighted to invite all graduates of the WMU Bronson School of Nursing and the Bronson Methodist Hospital School of Nursing to a reunion and homecoming event on October 1 and 2, 2010. A registration form is at the top of this page. With the schedule outlined below, it is sure to be an informative, inspirational event as well as an opportunity to meet past and current school mates. Visit [wmich.edu/hhs/nursing](http://wmich.edu/hhs/nursing) to view this schedule and added information.

### Friday Afternoon, October 1

1:00 Registration  
Gilmore Lobby, Bronson Methodist Hospital (BMH)  
1:20-1:45 Shuttle Service to the Western Michigan University  
(WMU) College of Health and Human Services (CHHS)  
2:00-3:00 Simulation Lab Visits, WMU  
3:15-3:30 Shuttle Service to BMH  
4:00-5:00 Presentation by **Jeanette Klemczak** R.N., M.S.N., B.S.N.  
Michigan Chief Nurse Executive:  
Linking the Past, Present and Future—a call to action!  
(CEU pending)  
5:00-6:00 Reception with Heavy Hors D'oeuvres  
6:00 → Open Time

### Saturday, October 2

9:00-11:00 a.m. Brunch, BMH Gilmore Center  
Presentations on International Volunteer Nursing  
by **Sharon Schlueter '78 & Micki Hopkins '64**  
(CEU pending)  
11 a.m. → Options:  
- BMH Tour 11 a.m.-12 noon  
- WMU CHHS Homecoming Open House  
(Tours, Art Exhibit, Food, Beverages)  
11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Shuttle Service Available  
- WMU Homecoming Football Game vs. Idaho  
(Tickets sold separately. For information and to  
order, visit [wmubroncos.com/football](http://wmubroncos.com/football).)

**Vital Signs Bulletin**

**Bronson School of Nursing**

College of Health and Human Services  
1903 W. Michigan Ave.  
Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5345

See page 11 for your invitation to  
an alumni reunion/homecoming,  
October 1-2, 2010.  
Register by September 17!

Dear Bronson schools' alumni and friends:

The future of nursing is in our classrooms today. Thanks to your support, nurses who are educated at BSON are well prepared to take on the great challenges and opportunities that face the profession.

Your gifts help students achieve their educational goals, while supporting faculty excellence in teaching, research and service.

As the saying goes: *Many hands make light work.* Your gifts make a difference, and we thank you for supporting the Bronson nursing program. To learn more, visit us on line at: [www.wmich.edu/hhs/nursing](http://www.wmich.edu/hhs/nursing). Your phone calls are also welcome at (269) 387-8881.

Best wishes,

Preston Hicks, Ph.D. LPC  
Development Director

PS: All graduates of the Bronson schools of nursing are "members" of our alumni group. While we will no longer assess dues, we will count on your continued generosity.

To our Michigan alumni and friends, remember: Fifty percent of your gift to Western Michigan University (up to \$200 for individual filers, and \$400 for joint filers) is returned to you as a tax credit on your state income tax return.

**\*Yes, I/we want to support the WMU Bronson School of Nursing!**

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I have included WMU in my estate plans.

I would like to include WMU in my estate plans.

Please contact me about my donation.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this completed form, along with your gift, to:  
**Western Michigan University, WMU Foundation Office**  
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Contribute online at [www.wmich.edu/foundation/gift](http://www.wmich.edu/foundation/gift).

Under "other designation" indicate WMU Bronson School of Nursing  
For more information, contact Preston Hicks, Development Office.  
Call 269/387-8881 or e-mail [preston.hicks@wmich.edu](mailto:preston.hicks@wmich.edu).