CONNECTIONS

a publication for alumni and friends of Carolinas College of Health Sciences

Summer 2010

Louise Moss Ansley

Carolinas College of Health Science's 2010 Distinguished Alumnus

Graduation News Inside

Dear Alumni & Friends,

Spring 2010 brought amazing things to CCHS. A few are chronicled in this newsletter: a glorious alumni trip to Southern Italy, a memorable opportunity to recognize our 1950 and 1960 graduates on their 50th and 60th anniversaries, the establishment of the Betty Anderson Endowed Scholarship, and the selection of Karen Hill (Parker) Miller and Louise Moss Ansley for special recognition. There was even more we didn't have room to celebrate with an article, but are worthy of mention here.

Our college accrediting body, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) paid their once-every-ten-years visit. For over two years we'd been intently preparing. A SACS visit is rigorous and always results in a host of suggestions and recommendations. To our delight and amazement our visit ended with a perfect report: no recommendations! Said our visiting chair, "This is my 42nd visit for SACS. Only once before have I left without making a single recommendation." Final action will be taken by SACS at its annual meeting in December. We may still be walking on air then. Our National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission visit ended with a similar perfect outcome – see Dr. Blackwell's column on page 1 for details.

In the first half of 2010, CCHS graduates performed with astounding consistency and excellence on their respective certification and licensure exams. First time pass rates racked up by our amazing new grads:

Medical Laboratory Science: 100% (4/4)
Radiologic Technology: 100% (16/16)
Nursing: 100% (57/57)

In the midst of that jubilation came bittersweet news: Much loved faculty member and former associate dean of nursing Sara Masters announced her retirement, effective in July. We are happy for Sara, who – after 32 years with CMC (18 at CCHS) – is moving to the mountains of NC to enjoy a slower and richer life. Send your fond memories and gentle farewells to **sara.masters@carolinashealthcare.org.**

Have a lovely summer. I hope to see you at the October Homecoming!

Ellen Sheppard

Ellen.Sheppard@CarolinasCollege.edu

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CONNECTIONS

is a publication of
Carolinas College of Health Sciences
PO Box 32861
Charlotte, NC 28232-2861

www.CarolinasCollege.edu

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NLNAC Reaccreditation Process

School of Nursing

Debbie Blackwell

The long awaited summer weather is finally here. We have survived a very challenging winter. Yes, we were delighted to see the snow the first time and perhaps even the second but the "wintry mix" with the accompanying record low temperatures made us grateful for the return to warm sunny weather. We feel energized by the beautiful scenery and the sense of renewal that springtime brings. In the last alumni newsletter I shared that the College and the School of Nursing were preparing for accreditation visits from two important accrediting bodies. The College was scheduled for its reaffirmation of accreditation visit from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) in March 2010.

During the site visit, these NLNAC site visitors verified, clarified, and amplified with program representatives the information presented in the self-study report and other program support documentation.

In addition to the SACS visit, the School of Nursing was expecting a visit from the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC) in February 2010.

The School of Nursing was visited by two NLNAC site visitors on February 8-10. The team chair, Karen Mittura, RN, MSN was from northern Virginia and the team member, Sheila Kyle, RN, PhD, was from West Virginia. During the site visit, these NLNAC site visitors verified, clarified, and amplified with program representatives the information presented in the self-study report and other program support documentation.

They met with college administration, nursing program administration, nursing faculty, general education faculty, nursing students, student services and business office professional staff, CMC nursing administration and nursing staff, and School of Nursing alumni. The team visited the clinical resources at CMC and Levine Children's Hospital. Both visitors remarked that the clinical resources were "outstanding"; however, what impressed them the most was meeting our nursing students, our nursing faculty, and our alumni working in these clinical facilities.

After an extensive review of the nursing program, the site visitors concluded the three-day visit with their recommendation of continuing accreditation for Carolinas College of Health Sciences School of Nursing with the next visit in eight years. The program received no recommendations or areas needing development. The team chair commented to those present at the exit meeting on the last day of the visit that this was the first time in her long tenure with the NLNAC that she had no recommendations or areas needing development for a visited program.

The site visit is the first step in the NLNAC reaccreditation process. This continuing accreditation recommendation will be presented to the NLNAC Evaluation Review Panel (ERP) for consideration at the end of May. A recommendation from the ERP will be considered by the NLNAC Board of Commissioners at the end of June. The reaccreditation recommendation will be finalized at that time and the program will be officially notified in July.

As the dean of this program, I am very proud of what the faculty, students, administration and alumni have accomplished with the success of this NLNAC visit. I would like to personally thank everyone for the hard work and support in preparing for the visit as well as the excellent participation during the actual visit. The site visitors commented that the program's level of preparation made the visit a "seamless process." This is a tremendous accomplishment for the program and the college. Thank you again.

Debbie Blackwell
Dean, School of Nursing
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School of Surgical Technology

Becky Cuthbertson

This time of year reminds me of a famous quote, "Never before have we had so little time in which to do so much." Our Class of 2010 graduates can certainly attest to packing more into a year than they ever felt possible. The nine who graduated in May completed nearly 600 hours in clinical practice and 40 hours in class and lab. In addition to carving out some study time, many of them also worked and/or had busy families to manage. Their ability to manage it all and persevere in attaining their educational goals certainly prepared them for the fast-paced, ever-changing world of surgery.

Many thanks to those alumni in the clinical sites who take part in mentoring the students; the program would not succeed without your willingness to shape these future professionals.

By the time you receive this publication, Kali Simien and I will have welcomed another group of students. It's an exciting time for us as we introduce these students to the "incredible world of surgery." We welcome alumni in assisting with this process. If you would like to visit and share what the profession means to you please let us know. New students often have so many questions about the profession and we would love to have those working in various positions provide an overview of your role. You can reach me at 704.355.1547.

Becky Cuthbertson
Director, School of Surgical Technology
Becky.Cuthbertson@CarolinasCollege.edu

School of Clinical Laboratory Sciences

Betty Anderson

Please remember to do your best, be honest, be professional, have a positive outlook, and always keep your certification current.

With a great deal of mixed emotion, I am writing my last column for the CCHS alumni newsletter. The years have flown by so quickly that I cannot believe that retirement time is here. I want to thank everyone who came to wish me well at either the wonderful reception given by Carolinas Laboratory Network administration or the fabulous CCHS reception given by the College. I was so surprised to see so many of you, especially those of you who traveled from long distances, and am overwhelmed by the emails, cards, and remembrances that many of you shared with me.

My wonderful husband established a scholarship in my honor and some of you have already contributed to it. I cannot thank the CLN and CCHS personnel, and especially my faculty, enough for all of the preparation that went into planning these receptions.

Whether I was your chemistry instructor or your program director, I have been privileged to witness so many of you graduate (some of you while working; some, driving great distances to be in class each day), become certified, get a job, and blossom into an experienced medical technologist, clinical laboratory scientist or (our new name..) medical laboratory scientist! I've seen you enter positions in the clinical laboratory, forensic studies, management, traveling tech, physician assistant, education, SLED, administrators in hospitals or corporations, and many other endeavors.

Please remember to do your best, be honest, be professional, have a positive outlook, and always keep your certification current.

A Parting Column from Betty Anderson

Upon retiring, I am very glad to leave the program in very capable hands. Kelly Shirley, the blood bank instructor, is the new program director and she will do an excellent job. Kelly will remember each of you: I left all of your class pictures on my office wall!

In closing, thank you again for making my career at CHS/CCHS so uplifting and memorable. You can contact me at 3000 Simmon Tree Rd, Charlotte, NC 28270 or email: danderson1@carolina.rr.com. 704-846-4459 (H) or 704-661-2993 (C). I am on Facebook, but am still learning how to use it. Keep in touch!

Warmest regards,
Betty Anderson

Kelly Shirley, MAEd, MLS (ASCP), SBB

School of Radiologic Technology

Doug Frankenburg

Warm greetings to one and all! As the new director of the School of Radiologic Technology, I am honored and humbled by the trust, support, and confidence provided by the administration and faculty. This is truly an exciting opportunity and I stand in awe of the quality, commitment, and competence of the radiologic technology faculty, clinical sites, and leadership support that is evident in all aspects of the program and the College.

I extend my appreciation and admiration to Lucy Davison who has served so effectively and honorably as the interim director. Additionally, we are blessed to have Cathey Miller, Jodie Huffstetler, and Patty McCrary as faculty members. Their collective wisdom, competence, commitment, and integrity are certainly invaluable to the success of the program.

As a recent arrival to Charlotte from Pennsylvania, I have found everyone to be warm and welcoming, and the staff, faculty, and students of CCHS certainly serve as a model of hospitality.

As a Radiologic Technologist of 40 years, I have had the privilege of participating in the advancement of our profession in technology, complexity, clinical utilization, and professional recognition.

My profession has enabled me to serve in many positions within the medical arena. Among those positions are military medic-radiographer, staff/special procedures technologist, educator/program director, imaging department director, and as a vice president within a multi-hospital system. Throughout my years of professional practice, I have found radiology education to be a very important, rewarding, and passionate expression of my career.

The success of our most recent graduating class of 2010 and the extraordinary record of achievement by previous graduates from the School of Radiologic Technology compels me to continue this tradition of excellence in all that we do in preparing our students for an exciting future in the noble career of Radiologic Technology. It is with great joy that I join the team at Carolinas College of Health Sciences!

Doug Frankenburg
Director, School of Radiologic Technology

News from the Alumni Association

1. Meeting Dates for Remainder of 2010
   August 31 (Bring a "school tool" for Classroom Central, if you wish)
   November 16 (Bring stocking stuffers for a child 9-12 years)

2. Recent Decisions or News of Note
   a. Alumni piloted the new alumni database to check for problems
   b. Association re-committed to community service, specifically
      - School Tools for Classroom Central or Salvation Army
      - Toys for toy chest at Levine Children's Hospital
      - Christmas stockings for Salvation Army Project, kids 9 – 12
      - Future commitment to assist with Ronald McDonald House.
   c. Alumni committed to senior receptions and capping ceremonies as long as desired and appreciated by students
   d. Association will continue to deliver monthly birthday cakes to the College
   e. Association will provide representation to Homecoming Planning Committees
      - Sara Munday
      - Tina Arthur Heatley
      - MK Brennan
   f. Association helped with the 50- and 60-year Reunions (Kathy Bruce, Laura Capranica, Elinor Caddell, Garland Smith, and June Booth, in particular.)

3. First time attendee Ellen Watson (SON '50) was welcomed to the May meeting.

4. Slides from Italy trip were shown and trip to Egypt was highlighted and discussed.

5. Capping ceremony was discussed; Association will continue to support.

Members of Alumni Association prepare stockings for December community benefit activity: Laura Capranica, Nancy Hill, Kathy Bruce, Cindy Gilmer, Nanda Rodgers and Tina Heatley.

Betty Anderson Retires

March 2010 was the end of an era – the Betty Anderson era of Medical Technology at Carolinas HealthCare System and at CCHS. Betty retired after 32 years of academic program leadership, and after 43 years in Medical Technology at Carolinas Medical Center. Many former students and colleagues attended a reception in her honor at which an endowed scholarship was announced.

Betty was awarded the Governor's Order of the Long Leaf Pine, a prestigious honor reserved for NC citizens who've devoted an entire career to the state of North Carolina

At a second reception Betty was awarded the Governor's Order of the Long Leaf Pine, a prestigious honor reserved for NC citizens who've devoted an entire career to the state of North Carolina. The Betty Anderson Scholarship, created with gifts from family, alumni, and friends, will assist one to two students each year with tuition and fees, and more students with funding for conference attendance.

The college will miss Betty's passion and leadership for her program, her faculty, and her students, but is confident that Kelly Shirley, new program director, will continue the successful legacy Betty left.

GRADS ON THE GO

School of Surgical Technology

Christin Harrison, CST

Christin Harrison graduated in 2007 from the Surgical Technology Program at CCHS She entered CCHS after achieving a BA in Therapeutic Recreation at Belmont Abbey in 2002. Her interest in healthcare stemmed from her desire to help people. She had a very sick uncle growing up, and the healthcare team that cared for him became a part of her family. Christin felt a need to give back…touch peoples lives the way she was touched…perhaps inspire someone!

While in the program she became intrigued with the world of plastic surgery. She had envisioned the specialty as a way to improve the appearance of those with "minor imperfections." She discovered a group of dedicated surgeons and staff focused on helping transform those with serious disfigurements resulting from injury or illness. Following graduation she secured a position with the plastic surgery team at CMC's inpatient OR. This provided the opportunity to enhance her knowledge and skills of all facets of plastic and reconstructive surgery.

Christin now works for Carolinas Cosmetic and Plastic Surgery. This office is within the Carolinas Physician Network and interfaces with numerous other surgical specialties. Christin was offered the position as a private scrub. Her new job allows her to take part in the care of patients before, during, and after surgery. To Christin,taking part in the continuity of care and seeing patients progress are the great rewards of her career. Additional opportunities led to her current position as the clinical supervisor of the office. In this capacity Christin manages the office as well as assists the surgeons in surgery. She finds the additional duties challenging and stated, "At CCHS I not only gained the knowledge and skills essential for this role but also learned to multi-task in a more efficient way." She would recommend this career path for other surgical technologist. "I love my job, the people I work with and the patients I care for!"

School of Nursing

Cathy Parris, RN

Cathy Parris, SON 2005, began her nursing career at CMC on the adult medical cardiology unit shortly after her graduation. She fell in love with this area of nursing and became a member of the American Association of Heart Failure Nurses (AAHFN). It wasn't long after graduation that she began to pursue her BSN degree completing it in December 2008 from UNC-Charlotte.

Cathy became the assistant nurse manager on the cardiology unit in December 2007 and the nurse manager with the medical/oncology unit at CMC in 2009. She completed her certification to administer chemotherapy and is preparing to take the certification as an oncology nurse in August 2010 and is active with the national and local chapters of the Oncology Nurses Society.

Cathy remains active with the College. She participated in a panel discussion and mock interviewing for senior nursing students. Providing support and mentoring for current students and future graduates is also a goal. "I couldn't have gotten a better nursing education than I did at CCHS. I want to be there for students the way faculty supported me when I was a student."

This past February, Cathy joined the alumni association on the trip to Italy. "It was a wonderful experience. I am planning to join next year's alumni trip." She and her husband celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary this year. She says she never misses opening weekend of an animated movie. It is a standing lunch date with her 5-year-old granddaughter Emma. Cathy fully enjoys her time as a nurse manager and devoted grandmother. She sends warm regards to her fellow classmates and alumni. Look for this 'Grad on the Go' next time you are at CMC.

Radiologic Technology

Kasey Griffith, BSRT (R)

Kasey Griffith, BSRT(R), is our newest clinical instructor at CMC-University. She recently completed her first semester as a "clinical instructor in training" while working as a staff technologist at CMC-University. Kasey grew up in Atlanta, GA and moved to North Carolina eight years ago. She began the program one year out of high school and entered the radiography program at CCHS and graduated with honors in 2006. When Kasey entered the program she immediately established herself as a "ball of energy," exhibiting the confidence and self-motivation necessary to be successful. "The radiography program at CCHS was extremely challenging," states Kasey, "but the variety of clinical sites, the rigorous coursework, and training at a trauma center prepared me to think outside the box and be ready for almost anything."

After graduation, Kasey received her Bachelor of Science degree in Medical Imaging from Cabarrus College of Health Sciences. She graduated summa cum laude having studied both CT and MRI. She received her certification in CT in 2008. Kasey also worked as a staff technologist at CMC-Main from 2006 - 2009 when she transferred to CMC-U. Kasey enjoys snowboarding, playing soccer, reading and spending time with her friends and family.

In her role as a clinical instructor Kasey has developed a new regard for her instructors and understands how difficult the role of an educator can be. "I never knew how different students could be. I thought every student was just like me, and they're not. I understand a little better why my instructors had to be the way they were. It's all about responsibility and patient safety and now I'm the one who is responsible for what that student does."

More Grads on The Go on PG. 7

Ethel Louise Moss Ansley, 2010 Distinguished Alumnus

Few individuals' influence within health care would top this...

- *Chief Nurse of post-operative recovery, just two years out of nurses training;*
- *Assisted Dr. Paul Sanger as he performed the world's first seamless aortic graft;*
- *Demonstrated to Dr. Francis Robicsek, world-renowned cardio-thoracic surgeon, a non-surgical intervention to clear a child s clotted femoral artery, saving his life;*
- *Through grass roots community action, affected state approval for a community hospital;*
- *Delivered a speech to the Tennessee Board of Regents which influenced funding for a new school of nursing.*

Impressive as it all sounds, that's just a few highlights in the life of the very impressive Ethel Louise Moss Ansley, Carolinas College of Health Science's 2010 Distinguished Alumnus.

Granddaughter of a coal miner, Louise Moss (Mossy to classmates) was born in China Grove, NC in 1929, the first of seven children, all born at home. Left unemployed by the economic crash of 1929, her father moved the family to Highlands, NC, where they cared for his mother in declining health, and became truck farmers, carrying produce to Atlanta weekly, and milking cows for the family meals. Louise remembers those formative years, "There was no doctor in the town, but a public health nurse provided our care. She was so capable and so beautiful in her white uniform and navy cape. I was ten when she told me, You can be whatever you want to be. My heart raced. I wanted to be just like her! As my mother and that nurse cared for my grandmother in her final days, I learned how love and respect can help an individual make their final journey with dignity." The family returned to Charlotte briefly in 1940 where Louise attended Piedmont Junior High, then moved to Landis where she graduated as the class valedictorian. At that time, most financial aid was going to the men returning from the war. "I knew, to be whatever I wanted to be, I'd have to work harder and be smarter than anyone else!" Louise rejoiced when she was accepted to Charlotte Memorial Hospital s School of Nursing and she moved to Charlotte with $75 in hand, an entire summer's babysitting wages and just enough for textbooks and essentials.

"Mossy" as a student, 1951 (above) and after 59 years of contributions to health care (right).

Nursing school's rigors prepared her for hospital duties caring for patients throughout the hospital on each shift, becoming charge nurse just out of school, managing patients diets and their wounds, mixing meds, and sharpening needles. Her love of the operating room caught the attention of cardiac surgeon Dr. Paul Sanger, whom she assisted for several years, and put her in the position of helping to design and open Charlotte Memorial's new post-operative recovery room in 1955.

"What I learned at Charlotte Memorial from people like Ethel Burton and Elinor Caddell - made me the confident, successful nurse I became. Whether it was standing up to a doctor or demanding action from a state legislator, I learned that confidence in nursing school."

Louise left Charlotte to travel the world with her engineer husband Robert and their two children, eventually settling in Franklin County, Tennessee. She didn t have to work; she chose to. Nursing was in her blood. But there was no hospital in her small town; medical care was provided in an old house. She marshaled her resources and helped convince the county to build a hospital.

They did, and she was one of three nurses who staffed it, even designing the OR herself! There was one problem. The nurses all trained in Chattanooga and they wouldn't move to rural Tennessee. "We're going to have to have a nursing school," I told the hospital administrator. Louise mounted a grass roots campaign, culminating in a speech to the President of the University of Tennessee and the Tennessee Board of Regents which helped secure funding to start Motlow College and open the first nursing program in Franklin County. Ansley celebrated only briefly, then began recruiting for a nursing program director.

Ansley was also frustrated over the lack of CPR instruction in Franklin County and weary of traveling to Chattanooga to recertify or to borrow mannequins. So she earned her own Fire Fighter Certification, then developed the state's first Industrial Emergency Safety Program at Motlow College. The program spread throughout the state, making CPR, fire, and industrial safety training readily available.

"One tough cookie," she's been called. She's floated the Snake River on a 22-foot raft, beat cancer twice, had four heart bypasses, suffers from chronic leukemia, and lives with a brain tumor. She can dance a mean Tennessee Waltz but feels most spiritually centered in the Tetons. She no longer pilots small planes, but is still active with the monthly Winchester Fly In. She's raised two successful children and is a grandmother, has been featured in *Personalities of the South*, and has been officially dubbed "The Super Nurse of Franklin County."

Yet when asked what she's most proud of, she answers quickly, "Remember the nurse who once told me 'You can do anything?" Well, I did! I only wish she'd known just how powerful her words were!" Congratulations, Louise Moss Ansley. We are proud of you!

Karen Hill Miller: 2010 Outstanding Educator

An educator for more than 20 years, Karen Miller has consistently demonstrated excellent classroom and clinical teaching skills, coupled with extraordinary caring for her students. A strong student advocate, she is committed to holding students accountable to a high standard of care. The integrity she brings to her role and her profession is admirable. In addition to this award, she was named the 2010 North Carolina Associate Degree Nursing Council Educator of the Year.

Miller earned her bachelor and master of science degrees in nursing from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. She recently attained Certified Nurse Educator status, establishing nursing education as her specialty and demonstrating expertise in this role. Karen began work at Carolinas HealthCare System in 1978 as a nurse assistant; 2010 marks her 30th anniversary as an RN with the System. Her teaching career began at Central Piedmont Community College, and she joined Carolinas College in 1992 advising prospective students. Many alumni will remember her as Karen Parker, and her role as nursing skills lab coordinator, which she held until 2002. In 2003 she became a full time Maternal-Neonatal Health faculty member.

Students praise Miller's teaching style, "Karen is very passionate about the subject and her desire for students to progress." "She is dedicated to teaching us everything we need to be the best nurses possible," and "I never left a clinical day without having learned something new – sometimes many new things!" Miller describes her teaching style this way, "I empower students by helping them pull "book knowledge" into the practical arena. Students notice the respect I have for all clients; regardless of their background, if I can role model that then I have done my job well. A favorite student comment was, 'You make us realize we know more than we think we do.' I like to tell people that I'm a "mama-teacher-nurse." As a maternity nursing instructor, it's often hard to know where one role ends and another begins!"

Karen Hill Miller, shown at left accepting statewide award

"I empower students by helping them pull "book knowledge" into the practical arena. Students notice the respect I have for all clients; regardless of their background, if I can role model that then I have done my job well."

Karen's service and commitment to Carolinas College is exemplary. She serves on several committees and is the College Historian. She developed a student health clinic so students could learn to administer skin tests. She is the College liaison to the System's employee wellness program and in that role promotes healthy personnel behaviors. This year, Karen initiated a collaborative service-learning project where students mentor and teach pregnant teens.

Outside interests include her cats and dogs, traveling with her husband Jeff, gardening, and reading. Says Miller, "One of my proudest moments was seeing the last of my four children receive his undergraduate degree. Before that, SOMEONE in our household had been continuously enrolled in a college since 1992!"

Karen says one of her many blessings is "to have carved out a niche in life that I so thoroughly love." We at Carolinas College consider that one of our blessings as well!

Help Select the next Outstanding Educator and Distinguished Alumnus

Nominations will be accepted through spring, 2011, but submit yours now.

Nomination forms are found at www.CarolinasCollege.edu

Click "Alumni & Friends" then "Online Forms".

GRADS ON THE GO

Continued from page 4

School of Clinical Laboratory Sciences

Will Borders

Since graduating from the School of Clinical Laboratory Sciences in January 2006, Will Borders has worked in hematology and molecular pathology labs. He served on the PET Committee for the last two years. This committee tries to create opportunities for employees to come together and share in their successes while trying to give back to the community. Will received very special recognition when he was nominated for the CHS Pinnacle Award. This is the highest employee recognition bestowed by Carolinas HealthCare System, and to have been nominated represents the highest esteem of one's colleagues and managers. Outside of work, Will is an avid tennis player and has participated on a few local USTA champion league teams as well as playing in occasional tournaments.

Will is married to Adrienne Borders who works in Cytogenetics at CMC-Main. They have traveled to Hawaii and around the US during their year and a half together. They don't have children unless you count their little dog Buddy Love Borders who likes to go camping with them. They are members of a life group at Forest Hills Church. Will states, "My experience working for CLN in both departments has been great and has taught me a lot about the core values and principles that are essential to being a successful employee, teammate, and person. I've learned how to be a more generous giver of time and energy to things that will benefit those around us. The pinnacle award nomination was very exciting but I still think it was an accident. I also would like to take this opportunity to thank all the teachers and staff at CCHS for being great examples and for all the work that goes into teaching and training students for careers in medicine and patient-centered care."

Capping Ceremony

Among the 17 May SON graduates who were capped (l to r): Lauren Sullivan, Jessica Goodman, Vanessa Crisp, Heather Johnson, Ashley Best and Shella Matthews.

Prior to the December 2010 graduation ceremony the mother of one graduating nursing student inquired about purchasing a nursing cap for her daughter, Christin Kirkpatrick, as a surprise. Happy to accommodate, Mom was given the stock number and ordering information for the cap adopted in 1990 when the School of Nursing reopened as "CMHA School of Nursing" (subsequently to become Carolinas College of Health Sciences). "Do you suppose," suggested Ms. Kirkpatrick, "you might have a little ceremony? Make it a surprise for Christin, and maybe invite a few faculty?" Intrigued with rekindling an old tradition, the CCHS Alumni Association planned a capping ceremony, complete with the Florence Nightingale pledge, candles, and a poem. Thus did the Capping Ceremony reenter the world of CCHS. Word spread and by the time the graduating class of May 2010 entered their final semester, 17 students (many encouraged by male student Otis Morgan) were requesting a "real ceremony!" Enhancements in May included a brief biography of Ms. Nightingale (Karen Miller), the history of the nursing cap (Charlie Plyler), and blessing of the hands (Rev. David Carl). Specially selected RNs capped each of the prospective graduates as a full audience of family and guests looked on. For some, the capping tradition has passed its prime – replaced by practical, scrub style uniforms, and non-gender-specific indicators of the RN's authority. For others, it symbolizes a rich heritage of heroism and dedication to care and healing. Perhaps what's best about 2010 is the freedom to choose.

Samantha Cole and Heather Johnson were capped by RNs significant in their lives.

In December Christin Kirkptrick (right) was capped by Kathy Bruce, SON '64

CCHS Alumnus Starts Local Professional Association

Jill Pettigrew Shaeffer (SON, 2002) saw a need, and then solved it by applying her problem solving skills, her leadership, and her high energy level. The result is Charlotte's newest professional organization chapter.

Shaeffer has specialized in vascular nursing since graduating from CCHS, but was dismayed that no local chapter of the Society for Vascular Nursing (SVN) existed. She rolled up her sleeves and within a year had founded such a chapter, recruited members, and planned an active year for the group. Jill encourages all CCHS alumni who are interested in vascular nursing to attend a meeting to learn more. She believes an often-overlooked part of cardiovascular disease is the vascular component. SVN works to raise awareness and produce evidence-based practice guidelines for the specialized care of vascular patients. Jill contends, "The first step to improving outcomes for these patients is educating the nurses who care for them every day!"

Founding members of the Charlotte chapter of the Society for Vascular Nursing include: (First row, l to r): Jill Shaeffer (Founder and CCHS Alumnus), Angela Lawson, Genteal Pelzer. (Top row) Tim McMurry, Cyndi Lindsay, Brandi Clardy, LB Sossoman.

That's where SVN, founded in 1982 at the national level, comes in. Shaeffer wants readers to know that meetings include free CEUs for members, but are also offered at a great rate for non-members - $10! Speakers include MDs from CMC and Presbyterian and the meeting location alternates between those two facilities. Says Jill, "We're open to nurses from all facilities and all backgrounds: from outpatient care and research, to cath lab and acute care bedside nurses, and advanced practice nurses." Check out the national SVN website at www.svnnet.org. For news of the local chapter, e-mail CCSVN@live.com.

Our Healing Hands...

So many of us chose a healthcare career to help others. Using our hands as extensions of our hearts was part of the call and thrill of learning our skills, whether in nursing or an allied health discipline. Our hands hold stethoscopes, needles, lead aprons, test tubes, and washcloths. Our hands hold other hands. Through the instruments we hold, we make a difference in others' lives. Learning to start an IV to infuse a life-saving medication…to collect a blood sample so our patient doesn't even feel the needle…to clean a wound or wash fragile skin, all are examples of the skills taught in CCHS's continuing education classes that make a difference for our patients.

Last year Carolinas College began a new hands-on series: Healing Touch. Healing Touch is an energy-based therapy originated by Janet Mentgen, RN. Its techniques allow practitioners to use their hands in a heart-centered and intentional way to support and facilitate physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual health. Healing Touch aims to restore balance and harmony to the body's energy system, allowing the patient to self-heal.

Research shows positive outcomes when Healing Touch is part of the treatment plan for cancer, cardio-vascular disease, death and dying, endocrine/immune problems, pain, psychotherapy, post operative recovery, and stress. Already, 110 people have taken CCHS's Healing Touch classes at Levels 1, 2 and 3. Says Susan Thomasson, Director of Continuing Education, "We plan to move to Levels 4 and 5 so participants can earn certification as Healing Touch Practitioners."

Learn more about Healing Touch at www.HealingTouchProgram.com. Explore CCHS's continuing education classes, including Healing Touch, by contacting Susan at 704-355-3921 or susan.thomasson@carolinashealthcare.org or check out the class listings at www.CarolinasCollege.edu/Academic Programs/Continuing Education.

Holly Ritger (r) is congratulated by Janet Handy (l), Chief Nurse Executive at CMC-Mercy

Congratulations Holly Ritger (2009 SON)

Holly won the Daisy Award at CMC-Mercy, becoming the first new graduate ever to earn this prestigious recognition at CMC-Mercy. The Daisy Award is a nationwide program recognizing RNs who exceed their job expectations in delivering excellent care and modeling great teamwork.

CCHS Alumni Visit Southern Italy

In late February a hardy troupe of adventurers boarded planes to "hop the pond" to Western Europe in order to explore Southern Italy (from Naples down to Pompeii) and the gorgeous Amalfi Coast. The CCHS alumni in attendance spanned a broad age range from not-yet-able-to-legally-drink on up to an alumnus from the class of 1951. While most alumni traveled from Charlotte with our core group, we were joined in route by Tenecia Jackson, who's living and working as an RN in Austin, TX. By the time we returned home, we'd tried many flavors of gelato, pasta, wine, and bread; sailed on azure waters to the Isle of Capri; walked the tragic streets of ash-covered Pompeii, and stood in the Coliseum on the very spot where the gladiators fought so long ago. But best of all, we'd rekindled old friendships and forged new ones.

K. Johnson, H. Lemckert, A. Tillman, K. Bruce, T. Jackson in Naples.

Ellen and Bob Sheppard on the Isle of Capri.

Hannah Lemckert (SORT '09) and Libby Greene (SON '60) ready to depart.

CCHS alumni travelers pose for a photo at a cameo factory near Pompeii.

2011 Alumni Trip Feb. 17-28

A Few Highlights:
Giza's Pyramids & the Sphinx, Saqqara, ancient capital of Egypt, Aswan Dam Boat ride to Elephantine Island, Mausoleum of Agha Khan, Temple of Isis at Philae Temple, Temples of Karnak & Luxor, Valley of the Kings, Cairo's Word Famous Bazaar, Antiquities Museum, Temples of Kom Ombo & Horus, Tombs of Tutankhamen and Ramses

The basic trip cost includes all this!

- Round-trip Charlotte to Cairo with a major airline, airport transfers and escorts (other gateway cities available; cost may vary); private motorcoach; boat and river cruise travel in Egypt
- Full-time, accompanied services of a multi-lingual Tour Director and Egyptologist
- Accommodations each night in comfortable, well-located hotels with private bath or shower
- 4-day river cruise on the Nile, outside cabin, all meals
- Virtually all meals, admission fees, porterage of bags

Learn more at http://cchsalumni.grouptoursite.com.
Cost per person, double occupancy, from Charlotte, is $3,305.
($450 deposit locks in rate; guarantees against any cost increases.)

Previous CCHS travelers receive a discount, up to $125.

To register online: Go to http://cchsalumni.grouptoursite.com
Select rooming preference and a different gateway city if necessary or register by phone: 800-438-7672, ext. 3557.

LIMITED SPACES REMAIN!
Questions? contact Pat Lewis at 704-355-2029 or Ellen Sheppard at 704-355-5316.
Trip is open to CCHS alumni, CHS employees, and family and friends.

Seen and Heard at Graduation 2010

Between December 2009 and May 2010, Carolinas College graduated nearly 160 new healthcare providers. Newly elected Mayor Anthony Foxx spoke in December, Dr. Ned Lipford in January, and CHS President Joe Piemont in May. To see more photos of graduation events, visit the college website: www.CarolinasCollege.edu and click on the "Commencement 2010" banner.

January MLS graduates (l to r) Jennifer Fritz, Anna Johnson Tim Lehman, Ellissa Hunt.

December 2009 honor graduates Maggie Barbato and Michelle Pineda smile for the camera.

Jason Helms (SON '03) completed the CMC/UNCC Nurse Anesthesia master's degree program in December, 2009 and is employed as an anesthetist at CMC-University. As part of the graduation activities, Jason was selected to present the Marie McManus Outstanding CRNA Award.

Three happy grads: Ashlee Fitzner, Charlise Ross, and Abby Sullivan.

Friends helping friends: Preparing for the graduation cermony.

Holli Chavis is ready for a litlle pomp and circumstance.

Ashanti Ferguson, December 2009 honor graduate, in full regalia.

50 and 60 Year Anniversaries Celebrated

Charlotte Memorial's 50th and 60th year alumni returned to the scene of their nursing and radiologic technology training as part of commencement weekend in May. One member from the class of 1950 and 13 from the class of 1960 attended. All were greeted by CMH alumnus (Class of '44) and former instructor, Elinor Caddell, members and officers of the alumni association, and staff and faculty of the college.

C.C. Waggoner and Blaun Bennett heard of the reunion just two days before the big event yet still came – with C.C. flying in from Missouri on just a day's notice! For Florida resident Martha Carland, it was her first return to Charlotte and first contact with classmates since 1960 when she graduated. At the commencement, alumni were led to VIP seating to strains of Pomp and Circumstance, and were presented with certificates and pins during the ceremony.

A catered meal at the Hilton gave opportunities to share glimpses into one another's lives since departing Charlotte Memorial. Martha Buchanan (SON '50), won the prize for RN longevity. She retired last year, is still listed for call duty, and has an active nursing license.

They entertained staff with stories of sneaking out of the dorm for dates with Canadian interns, staffing the hospital when doctors and nurses where snowed in at home, being quarantined with the flu, and honing their skills under the tutelage of their beloved and respected mentor, Elinor Caddell.

Three good friends share memories from 1957-1960: Judy Lindsay, Joan McClelland, and Mary Ann Simpson.

June Booth, SON '57, greeted Martha Myrick and other special guests in her CMH student uniform.

CCHS honored the classes of 1950 and 1960 for their professional contributions.

C.C. Waggoner and Blaun Bennett came to Charlotte on short notice and had a ball!

Elinor Caddell, SON '44, had been a favorite instructor of Martha Buchanan's in the late forties.

Like several in her class, Mary Ann Simpson is still an active professional nurse.

Homecoming 2010: October 22 – 24, 2010

Down Home Fun with a Carolinas College Hoe-Down Weekend

Once each five years, CCHS welcomes all alumni back.
This year we're making it a full weekend of fun, so please join us!

- Renew old friendships
- Network with colleagues in your field
- See what's new at CCHS and Carolinas HealthCare System
- Visit with some of your favorite former faculty members
- Get reacquainted with Charlotte – the Queen City!

Friday, October 22

Dinner at the College:
Catch up with favorite classmates and faculty.

Alternate activities available for spouses and kids

Saturday, October 23

Centerpiece of 2010 Homecoming:
An afternoon of fun with NC style pig pickin' with all the fixings.

Class competitions, DJ & dancing. Seating by alumni class.

Family activities include petting zoo, hayrides, fishing pond.

Sunday, October 24

Healthcare Today:
Breakfast & tours of CMC and Levine Children's Hospital

Visit the high-tech simulation center at the college.

The Details

Additional details and costs will be in your August invitation.
LODGING: We've locked in a great rate at the Hampton Inn, just blocks from the CMC campus. Just $89/night (taxes not included) if you reserve as part of the Carolinas College Homecoming room block, and that includes free breakfast, 24/hr coffee, shuttle service uptown or to the college, and free parking. Call the hotel directly to reserve your room. For the same price you can get a double queen room or a king, or a king with whirlpool bath (but those will go fast!). A few small suites are available for classes that want to host a hospitality suite. Rooms may be reserved now.

Hampton Inn-Charlotte Uptown
530 East Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd
(704) 373-0917

Homecoming 2010: October 22 – 24, 2010

Down Home Fun with a Carolinas College Hoe-Down Weekend

THE EVENTS

Online Auction:
If all goes well, a fundraising online auction will begin one month prior to homecoming and will conclude with some "top items" accessible for final bidding on Friday evening. There'll be bargains galore. If you have items to donate to the auction, please notify Pat Lewis at 704.355.2029 or Pat.Lewis@CarolinasCollege.edu.

Friday Evening, October 22:
After you've checked into the Hampton Inn (or gotten home from work, if you're local!), join us for dinner at the College. We're on the campus of Carolinas Medical Center, just five minutes from uptown. A buffet dinner and seating by class will allow everyone an informal chance to catch up with one another. You'll be amazed at how the years drift away and memories rush back as you hear familiar laughter and recount old adventures. Guests are welcome, but they may prefer one of the "Activities for Families" (see below). Tours of the College will be available, including an exciting visit to our high tech simulation center. (Approximate cost will be $20. Final details will be in your August invitation.)

Saturday, October 23:
It's down home fun with a Carolinas College Hoe-Down! This year's main homecoming event is a family-friendly pig picking and BBQ! College-arranged buses transport us to Oehler's Barn in northeast Charlotte. This huge facility has tons of fun activities for young and old alike. Take a hayride through the grounds or wander through the petting zoo, throw a line into the well-stocked lake, or grab an adult beverage and play ping-pong or billiards while waiting for our DJ to call your favorite square dance or teach the latest line dance. And all the while catch up with old friends and classmates who- of course - don't look a day older! The event runs 11:30 – 4:30 with food served 1:30 – 2:30. (Cost will be approximately $14/per person including transportation; tea, soda, or beer; all activities. Reduced cost for little ones and new grads. Final details will be in your August invitation.)

Sunday, October 24:
Stay just a little longer to see the latest in Level I trauma care. Find the old brass stairwell. Try to recognize the furniture and fixtures saved and relocated from the old chapel. You'll be greeted by a representative from Carolinas HealthCare System, the nation's third largest public healthcare system! Opt for the nickel or the dime tour of CMC, then learn about Levine Children's Hospital, a jewel in CMC's crown. Finally, if you didn't do so Friday night, visit CCHS and tour the high-tech simulation center. My, how healthcare education has changed!

TRANSPORTATION

In Charlotte: Our hotel provides free shuttle service within a three-mile radius, and that includes most of uptown Charlotte and CCHS!
From Airport: The airport shuttle is $20 - $23 each way and can be arranged at Ground Transportation near the baggage pickup area at the airport. The 7-mile distance could take from 10 to 30 minutes depending on traffic. The hotel will provide a shuttle much less expensively if 5 – 7 travelers are arriving or headed to the airport at the same time.
To the Hoedown: For your convenience, the College will make buses available to and from the Saturday event for out-of-towner's and locals wishing to "park and ride" from the College.

ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILY

Guests are welcome at all homecoming activities, but alternatives abound. Charlotte's new NASCAR Hall of Fame Museum is a short walk from the hotel. EpiCenter, uptown Charlotte's newest hot spot, holds a movie theater, bowling alley, shops, bars, and dance clubs – and is minutes away from the Hampton Inn. Discovery Place (interactive science museum), ImagineOn (interactive children's library), the new Bechler Modern Art Gallery, the Mint Museum, the Levine Museum of the New South, Bobcats Arena and Panthers Stadium, Afro-American Cultural Center…the list is exhaustive! The problem won't be "what to do" but "which to do!"

You're Coming? GREAT!

Mark your calendar, then take these easy action steps:

1. Make your air reservations.
2. Make your reservations at the Hampton Inn (see "Lodging," page 8)
3. Lead the charge for your class to the "best represented" trophy! Call classmates or find them on Facebook. Better yet, contact Pat Lewis to request a class list. (704.355.2029 or Pat.Lewis@CarolinasCollege.edu). Let us know of any updates you have on classmates or faculty.
4. Watch for your invitation in August.

CCHS Students Are Enriched Through Service Learning

Last fall the Student Nurses' Association of the Carolinas College of Health Sciences held its first annual "Fabulous Fall Fundraiser" that benefited the non-profit organization Florence Crittenton.

This special non-profit is dedicated to providing a range of health, educational, and social services to high-risk pregnant women and their children. They have a 32-bed residential maternity program for women ages 10 and up who need a safe and healthy environment during their pregnancy.

The facility is located next to CCHS. During their course in maternal and neonatal health, every nursing student at CCHS has the opportunity to visit Florence Crittenton and to interact with these high-risk individuals.

The Student Nurses' Association wanted this 'fabulous fundraiser' to be a success so they spiced things up with a competition between classes. They were pleasantly surprised when they received 100% participation from all intermediate nursing classes and were able to donate over 75 new items to the women at Florence Crittenton. Donations included diapers, bottles, alarm clocks, children's books, beautiful bedding, and many more useful items. Contest winners enjoyed a pizza party which they shared with the Florence Crittenton facility.

Your Alumni Portal is LIVE!

With SonisWeb, the new college database, alumni can now:
- View & update your contact information
- Search for classmates (all alumni from your grad year)
- Print an unofficial transcript (if you graduated after 1995)

How to Use this New Tool:

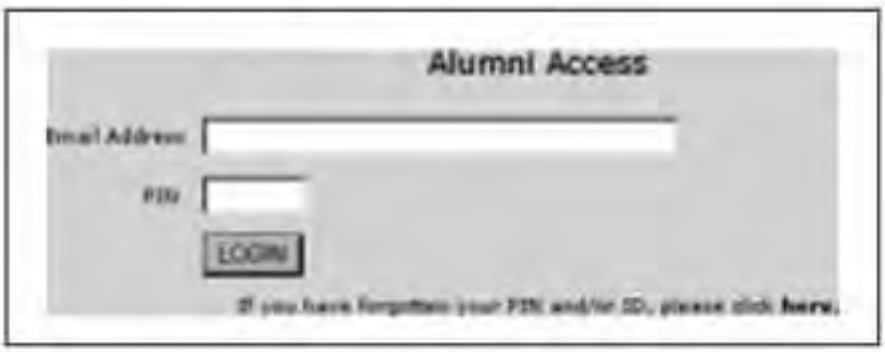
1. Access to SonisWeb is based on the email address we have on file for you. Check line 2 of your address as printed on the back cover of this issue of "Connections." If that's NOT your email address, or if there is a "?" on line 2, we need your email address to activate.
   a. www.carolinascollege.edu and click on "Alumni" then "Alumni address updates", or
   b. Contact Pat Lewis: 704-355-2029 or pat.lewis@CarolinasCollege.edu
   c. Need a free e-mail address? Follow the instructions at https://www.google.com/accounts, then use the steps above to inform CCHS of your email address.

2. Log into the Alumni Portal by entering this into your browser window: http://sonis.carolinascollege.edu

   Click the Alumni link and enter your personal e-mail address (the one the college has for you) and PIN (The PIN is your Date of Birth in the format "mmddyy". That is, if your birthday is June 29th, 1975, your PIN = 062975. If your DOB does not work, try the default date = 010100).

3. Additional instructions on how and what you can do with SonisWeb can be found on www.CarolinasCollege.edu under "Alumni and Friends" then "Staying in Touch."

You'll love the functions of this new tool, but if you have trouble, contact Bo Clarke at 704.355.7572 or Bo.Clarke@carolinashealthcare.org.



ALUMNI PATHWAYS

Please send your news via our website: (www.CarolinasCollege.edu/Alumni and Friends/Staying In Touch

Class of 1945

Sara Mitchell Auten, SON, reports that at 85 she stays very busy with church activities in Charlotte.

Class of 1950

Martha Matthews Buchanan, SON, returned to Charlotte for the recognition of her class's 60th anniversary. She retired from nursing last year but is keeping her license current and doing some PRN work. Her grandson is engaged to marry a CCHS alumnus.

Class of 1953

Mary Spires Rynd, SON, reported in May that she was looking forward to the class's annual reunion in Myrtle Beach, SC, organized by Louise Lee Warren, SON. The class is especially looking forward to Edith Craver Harris, SON, joining them from Pennsylvania.

Ellen Beam Wilson, SON, is retiring and will relocate from PA to NC.

Kathleen Yount, SOMT, worked for 43 years as a medical technologist and retired in 1995.

Class of 1954

Our condolences are extended to Daphine Matthews Davis, SON, whose husband James passed away last year.

Class of 1956

Becky S. Myrick, SON, was among those honored at a December recognition banquet. Becky received a monetary gift for achieving 50 years at Moore Regional Hospital. Her experiences included several years in obstetrics as head nurse, more than 30 years as an instructor in the education department, and since 1996, as a part-time staff nurse in the pre-admissions department. Said Becky, "I attribute my longevity to good health and the skills and attributes I learned at CMH. This is where I was also taught the hard work ethic and gained the love of nursing and quality patient care. I now look forward to quality time with my husband and family, traveling, reading, and gardening."

Members of the class of 1958 at annual reunion.

Class of 1958

Linda Patton Nance, SON, writes, "We just lost Colleen Cottingham Plummer, SON, who passed away on April 13th. Edith Poston Larsen, SON, was able to be with us although she was very ill for several months. April Hager Phillippi, SON, was returning to Pennsylvania to celebrate her 50th wedding anniversary. The rest of the group remains active in community affairs and enjoys our maturing grandchildren. We never fail to rejoice that we shared those years together at CMH to fulfill our dream of becoming nurses."

Our condolences are extended to Janet Kelly Saunders, SORT, whose husband recently passed away.

Class of 1959

The class of 1959 (nursing) had a lovely reunion in the spring and spent hours laughing about old times and catching up on news.

Becky Myrick is recognized by Moore Regional Hospital.

Class of 1960

The class reunited in Charlotte as CCHS recognized their 50th anniversary. All who attended were able to catch up on one another's news. Martha E. Myrick, SON, and Elizabeth "Libby" H. Greene, SON, enjoyed a tour of Italy in February on the CCHS/CMH alumni trip. Both agreed that they would not take a million dollars for the experience. Our condolences are extended to Harris Wylie York, whose husband Frank passed away in March, 2010. Send news items to Libby at egreene@windstream.net, 1238 Grace Meadow Dr., Mooresville, NC 28115, or to Vera Smith at vtsmith1@infionline.net, 9210 Bellhaven Blvd, Charlotte, NC 28214.

Class of 1961

Dianne Wagstaff, SON, reports that the class is planning a reunion at Eva Shuler's home.

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Class of 1962

Judy Cabaniss Perrell, SON, loves her job at Huntersville Oaks nursing home but husband's recent illness and surgery have taken much energy.

Class of 1963

Lee Callibutt Abbott, SON, is volunteering with Hospice two days a week.

Class of 1964

Mary Frances Bussey, SON, was honored for 40 years of service to Carolinas HealthCare System on March 16. Ms. Bussey currently directs clinical trials for the Blumenthal Cancer Center, a division of CMC's Department of Medical Education and Research. Joining Mary Frances to share this special occasion was good friend and fellow alumnus Ann Saline (SON 63).

Class of 1977

Jane Milligan, SOMT, has returned to the medical technology field after a 13-year absence. She works at a children s hospital in Ft. Worth, TX, as client services supervisor and is glad to be back in touch with the college and her profession.

Class of 1996

Kristina Andronica, SON, completed CRNA school and is working as a nurse anesthetist at Gaston Memorial Hospital.

MK Brennan, SON, in addition to her national office with the professional association for massage therapists, is active on the planning committee for CCHS' 2010 Homecoming.

Erica Cirillo Brinkley, SON, and husband Sean have a two-year old daughter, Maeve. They just bought their first house together. She is working toward a Doctorate of Nursing Practice at the University of Maryland at Baltimore; anticipated graduation is spring 2011.

Class of 1997

Jason Garver, SOMT, is working for Bon Secours Health System as a senior LIS consultant while also doing LIS consulting work for CHS. He lives in Clover, SC.

Class of 1998

Jamillah Hasan-Jones, SON, is the Director of Clinical Quality Improvement at Piedmont Medical Center in Rock Hill, SC, where she works with fellow CCHS alumnus Kara Tipp (SON '99). Jamillah writes, "My daughter Aqueelah was born at CMC-Main in October 2008. What a surprise it was to see Karen Parker (now Miller) at the door, still teaching me how to cope with being a new mom. I am forever grateful for the beginning at CCHS."

Class of 1999

Amy Nivens, SON, recently became a mom.

Kara Skidmore Tipp, SON, is the Director of Women s Services at Piedmont Medical Center and recently received the Palmetto Gold Nursing Excellence award.

Class of 2000

Erin Martin Hackney, SOMT, has taken a break from her career to be a full-time mom to Jamison Bryant, born Oct. 23, 2008. Between taking care of Jamison and managing the books and payroll at her husband's dental office in Taylorsville, NC, she stays busy!

Class of 2001

Haley Brown, SORT, married Shawn Lowery on June 13, 2009.

Jieffa Jones, SOMT, earned a masters degree in forensic serology/DNA from the University of Florida in August of 2008. She is working for the Virginia Department of Forensic Science in their Forensic DNA lab after seven years as a traveling med tech.

Paula Varney, SON, has returned to CMC after 6 years in California and is working in pediatric oncology at Medical Center Plaza.

Class of 2002

Tara Dellinger, SON, worked in the NICU at CMC after graduation and then did some work as a traveling nurse. She married Jeff Pariano in June of 2006 and they are the proud parents of a baby girl, Ava Catherine, born March 13, 2010.

Jill Pettigrew Shaeffer, SON, started a Charlotte chapter of a professional association for vascular nurses. (See article in this issue)

Amy Younts, SOMT, is working as the Clinical Coordinator for Cornerstone Laboratory Services in High Point, NC.

Class of 2005

Jamie Walton Martin, SON, and her husband Eric welcomed a baby boy (Benjamin James) on June 7, 2009. Benjamin weighed 8 lb 13 ozs. Up until his birth, Jamie worked in L & D at Rex Hospital in Raleigh. She is enjoying staying home and being a full time wife and mother.

Jamie Walton Martin, SON, '05

Tara Witham, SORT, recently moved to Virginia from New Jersey and is working on getting registered in VA, which she relates is quite a process!

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Class of 2006

Wendy Jackson Gardner, SOMT, and her husband Neil welcomed their first child, Carson Boyd, on May 27, 2009. Wendy lives in California but is contemplating a move back to the Raleigh area.

Hayley Ross Reck, SON, lives in Garner, NC, and is expecting a baby.

Christie Wills, SON, is expecting a baby girl.

Bethany White, SON, is engaged to Spencer Reuter with a wedding date of April 30, 2011.

Class of 2007

Josh Stiles, SON, recently became engaged to Lee Anne Hellebrand, RN, who works in MICU at CMC. They are living in Belmont and considering a wedding in Key West.

Ralph "Trey" Wright, SON, married Kendra in December 2008. They welcomed a son, Treyson, born October 14, 2009.

Class of 2008

Dhruvi Desai, SORT, married Bunti Patel on Jan. 6, 2010 in India. They live in Brooksville, FL.

Heena Nagarji, SOST, is enrolled as a nursing student at CCHS.

Leslie Rudisill, SOST, reports she's been working in the CMC OR for two years.

Class of 2009

Julie Doughty, SON, married Moris Osmanovic on Oct. 17, 2009.

Hannah Lemckert, SORT, and Kelly Johnson, SORT, traveled to Italy's Amalfi Coast with the CCHS alumni association. They discovered international travel is exciting and getting to know the older CCHS alumni is great fun. They were relieved to find Diet Coke available even on the Isle of Capri.

Ashley Parker, SOMT, is working for WakeMed Health and Hospital's Pathology Core Lab - Raleigh Campus. She says the main lab where she works is almost a carbon copy of the lab at CMC. They do most of the lab work for Wake Med's smaller hospitals and doctor's offices in the area. She was recently invited to be trained as the Centaur Prime Operator and also began taking 5S class and Six Sigma through the hospital.

Amanda Taylor Whitaker, SORT, was married on December 5, 2009.

New Alumni Lend Helping Hands

Amanda Jones, Sarah Ludlow and Denise Fisher (l to r)
Class of 2010 Ambassadors

The parting thoughts of many new college graduates is "Hooray! We're outta here!" Not so with many CCHS alumni who return to help with tutoring, mentoring, and other college projects. Case in point: Amanda Jones and Sarah Ludlow (SON, May 2010) and Denise Ferguson (SORT, May 2010) served as Student Ambassadors on May 13, immediately after their graduation, helping the College welcome 65 new students during orientation activities. Without Student Ambassadors as an integral part of orientation, we could not provide detailed tours which include first hand information and tips on the hospital, parking deck and clinical areas. These new grads could also answer questions about clinical sites and experiences - information Student Services personnel are not familiar with. Amanda Jones, said "...it's important for new students to get the scoop from those who've been through what they're about to go through. It's a lot of fun!"

If you are interested in serving as a Student Ambassador, contact Rhoda Rillorta at Rhoda.Rillorta@CarolinasCollege.edu.

In Memorium

Audrey Irene MacKay Stubbs (SON '51)
Coleen Cottingham Plummer (SON '58)
Joyce "Joy" Lawrence Yates (SON '62)
Shirley Ann Woods Patterson (SON '57)

We Love Your Testimonials

From Mary Griffin, CCHS Nursing Faculty Member: *"A nurse from a CMC clinical unit approached me about my students. Wow. She was so appreciative of my students and their respect for the nurses and patients. Shortly after that, the unit's charge nurse told me, 'We are so glad when y'all come to clinical. Your students are much better to work with than students from other programs.' Then as I was leaving, a nurse aide spoke of how grateful she was for our students because they actually chart their patient care. Evidently, other schools' nursing students do not function as well in the student role. Though my students are just starting out (NUR 101), it's clear they far surpass students from other nursing schools in both skill and professionalism."*

Scott Winslow (SON '96) *"I can't thank you enough for meeting with my sister. She WILL make her nursing dream come true. Is Sue Thornton still teaching A&P? Having her was one of the best parts of my education!"*

Nancy Murray (SON '54) reporting on a conversation with Joann Galusha: *"Dr. Bryant Galusha sang the praises of our student nurses during his recent hospitalization. They took very good care of him. He's home now but wanted you to know how terrific they were!"*

Jenny Kirkpatrick on daughter Christin's capping ceremony: *"It was perfect. From the surprise, to the wonderful feeling of care that was evident, to the 'newness' of an old tradition, we could not have asked for more. Each presenter added a special touch in their own way. It truly was touching to see Christin as the pledge and poem were read; they hit home for her. It was everything I hoped for, and more."*

From Melissa Troutman, an OB educator at Morehead Medical Plaza: *"Kudos" to your student, Stacey Sheasby, who attended my childbirth class last night. She stayed the entire class (3 hours) though only two hours was required. One expectant mother had come by herself and Stacey stepped up and helped with her breathing and relaxation. I was very impressed."*

Donna Mueller McDermott (SON '95): *"I am so proud to see how the school has grown to become CCHS, and in my opinion a world class college of health science. Even back in my day, I knew CMHA-SON was an institution above all others with so many talented instructors and staff so willing to impart their wisdom on the science of caring, and to support each student. I could never give back all that my education at CCHS gave to me. Every piece of knowledge, experience, encouragement has been priceless!"*

Linda Nance (SON '58) on reading the Winter issue of Connections: *"It is wonderful! So many good things are happening there that make me proud! Keep up the good work.*

Martha Buchanan (SON '50) on CCHS's recognition of her 60th anniversary: *"I can't remember when I had such a memorable time! The tour was fascinating, the accommodations were great, the graduation was wonderful… So many young people are entering the medical field! I was so honored that I was recognized. It was a special time that I shall never forget."*

Martha Myrick (SON '60) on the 50th anniversary recognition: *"You made me feel so good about being a part of the 'old CMH School' and so proud of the 'New CCHS.' It was a highlight and a very special time in my life."*

Libby Greene (SON '60), on the CCHS recognition of the Class of '60: *"We felt so special, honored, humbled; all those things. When "Pomp and Circumstance" began, I felt a lump in my throat and had to fight back the tears."*

Among Facebook comments posted to our CCHS Alumni Association page:

Sarah Ann Ludlow (SON '10) regarding NCLEX: *"I've passed, too!"*

Ruth Messick (SON '97): *"Congratulations! CCHS produces the best!"*

Help Us Find "Missing or Lost" Alumni

The College has a number of alumni with whom we've lost touch. Starting with this issue, a short list will be highlighted in each issue. We need your help in finding current contact information on "missing or lost" alumni. If you can provide current information, your name will be entered into a raffle for a free Carolinas College T-shirt. This issue's list contains names from the Classes of 1944 - 1954. If you'd like a list of everyone from your graduating class with current contact information, contact Pat Lewis at 704.355.2029 or pat.lewis@CarolinasCollege.edu.

Blonita Paschall	1944	Sybil Worthington	1947	Betty Jo Ball	1952	Elsie Moose	1954
Kathleen Tuten	1945	Willie Ashe	1947	Kathleen Hill	1952	Jean Cooper	1954
Aileen Settle	1946	Grace Cannon	1948	Margie Dabbs	1952	Joan Burgess	1954
Betty Hawn	1946	Carolyn Veith	1950	Ruth Nelson	1952	JoAnne Henderson	1954
Elizabeth Payne	1946	Claire Nivens	1950	Blanche Anderson	1953	Marion Yoder	1954
Helen Massie	1946	Gladys Evans	1950	Joyce Smith	1953	Mary Hartman	1954
Hilda Nichol	1946	Margaret Plyler	1950	Betty Barber	1954	Montrose Ridenhour	1954
Doris Murphy	1947	Patsy Bush	1950	Betty McKee	1954	Nancy Mitchem	1954
Fran Henry	1947	Ann Bartlett	1952	Billy Massebeau	1954	Ruby Griffin	1954
Lucy Bogle	1947	Betty Fowler	1952	Dorothy Harris	1954	Susie Hinson	1954
Mary Thomson	1947						

DONORS *hall of fame*

Key:
EMS Emergency Medical Science
SOMT School of Medical Technology
SON School of Nursing
SORT School of Radiologic Technology
SOST School of Surgical Technology

Honor Roll of Our Generous Alumni and Donors

"A measure of good character is one's actions when there is nothing to be gained by demonstrating good character!"

The list below includes those who've given -- or pledged to give -- without thought of personal gain. The college recognizes, appreciates, and honors the generosity of these individuals. If your gift arrived after May 14, it will be listed in our December edition. If your gift is not listed or listed incorrectly, please contact Pat Lewis at 704.355.2029 or pat.lewis@CarolinasCollege.edu so we can correct the error with our next publication. Thank you!

Legacy of Excellence ($1,000 +)

Eve B. Hoover, Dr. Kathleen Revel Scholarship
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The Carolinas College Alumni Association now has a Facebook page! Become a friend and you'll receive updates on scheduled alumni meetings and events, and what's happening at CCHS. Just loaded: lots of pictures of our alumni trip to Sorrento!

Not a member of Facebook? Simply enter www.facebook.com into your browser, register, and search for Carolinas College Alumni Association, then click that you "Like this Page."

Comment on our postings and and let us know what you'd like to see.

CONNECTIONS PROFILE UPDATE

What's new in your life? Please fill out the information below and send to: Publications Manager, CCHS, PO Box 32861 Charlotte, NC 28232-2861.
You can also update profile information online at: www.CarolinasCollege.edu Click on ALUMNI and then ALUMNI ADDRESS & NEWS.

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Make plans to attend the biggest CCHS event ever: Homecoming Hoe-Down 2010, Oct 22 – 24. You won't want to miss it! Full story inside. Begin contacting classmates now. Additional Homecoming details will be on the website: www.CarolinasCollege.edu.

December Connections will feature CCHS alumni who are making the world a better place – on their own time! Send us your story and picture (jpeg files only) of a mission trip, your non-profit organization, or your pet community service project. We'll print as many as we can (email to Pat.Lewis@CarolinasCollege.edu).

Contacting classmates just got easier. With the new alumni database (SonisWeb) you'll be able to update your contact info, run a list of classmates, and - coming soon – order an official transcript! There is a learning curve, so this month we're starting with step one – creating your SonisWeb log-in and password. See instructions inside this issue. Confused? Contact Bo.Clarke@CarolinasHealthCare.org. He can help.

Items are needed for our Homecoming Online Auction. Contribute an item others might treasure….a collectible from your attic, a weekend at your vacation home, a meal at your best friend's restaurant…by emailing Ellen.Sheppard@CarolinasHealthCare.org.

Willing to have a prospective student contact you to learn what being a CCHS student is really like? Send your email, grad year, and name while attending to Pat.Lewis@CarolinasCollege.edu.

See you October 22 – 24!