A Note from the President of the College

Adopting the Tradition of New Year’s Resolutions

The tradition of New Year’s resolutions is credited to 153 BC and Janus who was the Roman god of beginnings and the guardian of doors and entrances. Janus is always depicted with two faces. One face could look back on past events while the other looked forward to the future. I am thankful that we have this age-old practice to lean upon!

2015 was the year of looking back. It is a marvelous feat to celebrate the centennial tenure of a college. For SACN, it was a wonderful time to look at all that has happened during those 100 years. Looking back gives us the chance to celebrate the missions, innovations, and loving care that has been delivered by the graduates of Saint Anthony. The celebration events gave alumni the opportunity to reconnect and share happy or funny memories. It is my hope that it also rekindled your love for Saint Anthony.

The end of 2015 and the beginning of 2016 also fostered the chance to look both backward and forward. The faculty and staff are busy analyzing wonderful practices and policies that we want to keep—our heritage in action. We are also looking forward and identifying practices that we want to change or need to create for the first time.

2016 brings several promises. We have the opportunity to grow into a larger and stronger college but one that promises to keep the personal touch. We are seeking accreditation of the DNP program—a dream of many alumni. We are engaging in faculty and staff development so that we can maintain the promise and history of delivering excellent education. The promise of a new home in 18 months means that we can do more and different things than in the past. The academic preparation of applicants has been increasing which means our graduates are also more successful while in the program and after graduation. The faculty are more productive and are expanding their research, publication, and engaging in advanced nursing practice.

Most importantly, we are looking backward and forward in relation to our alumni. We have reached out to many alumni over the past year. We want to continue those connections and build stronger relationships. Like Janus, we are guardians of the doors and we want to encourage you to keep coming “home.” Please watch for more communications from SACN, tell us about your memories and the wonderful things happening in your life, join us at alumni events, and keep the faculty, staff, students, and college administration in your prayers.

With joy and best wishes, I wish you a “janus” filled with wonderful memories and joyful plans for the future.

Sandie Soldwisch, President
Welcome to 2016! When asked to consider taking the chair position of the Saint Anthony Nurses’ Alumni Association, I was honored. But then, I quietly asked myself why I would add yet another obligation to my already full plate of life responsibilities. Why indeed. Well….

Nursing was not my first profession. I was a 1975 graduate of Michigan State University in medical technology. This career served me well for many years. But, after several years of looking into a microscope I realized the moments I truly enjoyed my med tech job were when I was interacting with patients: collecting specimens, gathering histories, or educating on test preps. As a result, when the opportunity arose to change paths, I chose nursing. A career in which one got really close to people. I was accepted into the nursing program at Saint Anthony School of Nursing, graduating in 1988. I have enjoyed almost three decades of nursing.

Much has changed since I graduated. Names have changed, buildings have been acquired, programs and initiatives have been met and altered. My nursing cap, a nursing symbol I revered, now rests on my credenza shelf instead of my head. The white uniform, stockings and sensible nursing shoes have changed to more comfortable and practical scrubs. But one thing has not changed. The value of a Saint Anthony College of Nursing degree remains solid and valued. That degree has served me well. I chose to become an obstetric nurse and practiced at the bedside for seven years. My diploma served as a gateway to the bachelors in nursing. My education at Saint Anthony prepared me well in the pursuit of higher education. The well designed OSF program was an excellent, respected and recognized program that served as an excellent foundation for me to successfully complete a master’s in women’s health at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Presently I find myself teaching health care professionals on the topics of women’s health and infant nutrition nationally and internationally as an active faculty member of the Healthy Children Project based in Cape Cod Massachusetts.

So…when asked to chair the Saint Anthony Nurses’ Alumni Association, I reflected on that well-rounded background I received for my career and all the benefits received. Becoming chair of the alumni was an opportunity to “give back” to my college.

As we begin a new year, I invite you to reflect on your career path and the preparation you received. As a Saint Anthony graduate your degree is priceless. It is a gateway to limitless opportunities. In return, you may want to open the door to the Saint Anthony Nurses’ Alumni Association and discover how you can “give back” to your college. Discover what it means to be an alum. Who is involved? What can you do for the alumni? What can your alumni do for you? For answers to these and other questions just call your college of nursing. Make this the year of getting involved and giving back to your alma mater.
College to Move to RVC Campus in 2017

Construction will begin this spring on a new state-of-the-art health science center on the campus of Rock Valley College. Saint Anthony College of Nursing will move its main campus to the third and fourth floors of the building in the summer of 2017. The new location will provide more visibility for the college and offer more opportunities for the students.

Giving Garland

Faculty and staff at the college collected more than 100 cold weather items over the holidays that were donated to St. Elizabeth Community Center in Rockford. The items were displayed as garland during the holiday season.

Two New Simulation Labs Open at Guilford Square

Students were welcomed back to the spring semester with two new simulation labs at the Guilford Square campus. The new labs are for community/psychiatric mental health and the other is for OB/neonatal. Two debriefing rooms and a new faculty office have also been added. This project was made possible from the proceeds of the 61st Annual OSF Saint Anthony Pink Ball which raised more than $130,000.

Nominations Needed for SACN Distinguished Alumni Award

College of Nursing Distinguished Alumni Award recognizes an alumnus of Saint Anthony College of Nursing or School of Nursing who has advanced the nursing profession through professional accomplishments and commitment to nursing education, practice and research. Recipients must have demonstrated leadership and influence in their support of nursing and the college.

We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to honor an outstanding alumnus!

Nomination forms can be found at www.sacn.edu

Deadline: April 1

Distinguished Alumni Award Honors 1945 Graduate Posthumously

The alumni association awarded its first Distinguished Alumni Award at the May banquet. The honoree was Myrla Schumacher, a 1945 graduate of the school of nursing who began her career as a nurse at the age of 21 and retired at 83. She worked in many nursing roles including private duty, industrial nurse at Highland Hospital in Belvidere, OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center and as an office nurse. Her granddaughter, also an alumnus of the college, nominated her and had the privilege of working alongside her. It was her dedication, humility, gentle touch and care that inspired her to become a nurse and carry on her legacy. Myrla’s granddaughter and college faculty member, Teresa Allen, accepted the award on her behalf.

Members of the SACN Student Organization

President: Rachel Sparkman-Quenett
Vice-President: Heather Homick
Secretary: Amanda Murdent
Treasurer: Nic Kruckenberg
Dir. Of Community Relations: Nicole Bounphithack
Parliamentarian: Oliver Hammonds
Junior 1 Rep: Cory Engsetter
Junior 2 Rep: Brittany Grover
Senior 1 Rep: Nicole Boviall
Senior 2 Rep: Katie Files
In Sympathy
Alma Fleege Lewis, Class of 1938
Lenore Larson Klukken, Class of 1940
Myrla Schumacher, Class of 1945
Nina Nardiello Lomas, Class of 1956
Kathleen Joyce Keller, Class of 1973
Anita Rumage Speck, Class of 1980
Melissa Re, Class of 2005
Amy Leute, Class of 1988
Cynthia Hyland Emer, Class of 1982
Marjorie Zies, Class of 1957

End-of-Life Education Consortium
Core Curriculum
Advancing Palliative Nursing Care
March 14-May 2, 2016 • 6 – 8 p.m.
Weekly Classes
Guilford Square Campus, Rockford
Learn the knowledge and skills required to provide this specialized care and to positively impact the lives of patients and families facing serious illness or the end of life.
Visit www.sacn.edu for more information.

Save the Date

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 23, 2016</td>
<td>11 a.m.</td>
<td>Future Nurses Academy</td>
<td>Discovery Center Museum</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 11, 2016</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
<td>Alumni Banquet</td>
<td>Rockford Country Club</td>
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<td>May 13, 2016</td>
<td>11 a.m.</td>
<td>Baccalaureate Mass</td>
<td>Holy Family Church</td>
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<td>May 14, 2016</td>
<td>11 a.m.</td>
<td>Commencement</td>
<td>Coronado Performing Arts Center</td>
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Alumni Breakfast
Join your fellow Saint Anthony College of Nursing and School of Nursing Alumni for food and friendship!

When:
Thursday, March 17, 2016 • 9 a.m.

Where:
Stockholm Inn, 2420 Charles Street, Rockford, IL
Hosted by: The Saint Anthony Nurses’ Alumni Association
Please RSVP to 815.395.5091 by 3/10
We look forward to seeing everyone!

End-of-Life Education Consortium
Core Curriculum
Advancing Palliative Nursing Care