



Dimensions



**New Master of Science in Nursing Degree | EDGE Run
Meet Ollie | President's Scholarship Breakfast**



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Issue 2 - 2014

Table of Contents

Our Greatest Legacy.....	3
Alumni Reunion.....	3
EDGE Run.....	4
New Master of Science Degree....	4
Methodist College: Remodeled....	5
Meet Ollie.....	5
President's Scholarship Breakfast..	5
Scholarship & Research Day.....	6
Spring 2014 Graduates.....	7
JoAnn Landis Semelroth Memorial Scholarship.....	8

President's Update *Dr. Kimberly Johnston*

It is hard to believe that a new school year is upon us! It seems like just yesterday that we were celebrating the graduation of our spring 2014 class. As we look to the beginning of a new academic year we have much to look forward to. This year we will be welcoming our largest entering class in the history of Methodist College. We will have over 150 new students with over 600 total students enrolled this fall semester. Another first is our new Master of Science in Nursing program. This program marks the first entry into graduate education in the history of Methodist nursing education and the first class will commence in Spring 2015. This degree focuses on nursing education and will prepare the graduate to function in the role of a nursing faculty member or a clinical nurse educator.

We are extremely lucky to have excellent nursing and arts and sciences faculty here at Methodist College. Moving from all nursing educators to integrating the arts and sciences faculty has improved the education that we deliver to our students through the collaboration that occurs among faculty of varying disciplines. The arts and sciences faculty are able to teach their courses with a focus on important nursing content which allows students to see how general education courses provide the framework for their professional study. Faculty from differing disciplines are also better able to work together conducting research made richer because of the integration of theory from other fields.

Faculty is a critical resource but equipment is as well. Simulation mannequins used in our Simulation Centers cost approximately \$45,000 each. These are critical adjuncts to a student's education and one for which Methodist College is known. It is important that we are able to provide our students with these educational resources but we cannot always find the money. We try to not increase student tuition which makes us more dependent on our caring alumni donors such as you. In addition our students rely strongly on scholarships provided by generous donors such as our alumni. For many of our students their scholarships make the difference between staying in school or having to withdraw due to lack of funds. As you can see our alumni gifts are important to our functioning. I hope you will consider giving to the annual fund this year and thank you for all of your past donations.

This year is shaping up to be a very productive and positive year. I know the Alumni Association has many exciting activities in store for you this year and I hope you will join in. I wish you a wonderful Autumn.

In Remembrance

Keiamber Beard 2012

Mary (Rimington) Northcutt 1939

R. Sherry (Klecker) Petri 1961

JoAnn (Landis) Hadank Semelroth 1948

Phyllis Shirley 1955

Mary Vogelsang 1954



Methodist College
UnityPoint Health

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EMERITUS BOARD MEMBERS

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A Gift to Methodist College Helps to Secure Our Future

A lot has changed since Methodist's founding in 1900, but the belief in excellence in education for nursing and health care professionals has remained prominent. Our alumni and friends of Methodist have continued their philanthropic support over the years to make a difference in the lives of countless students. We are grateful to the alumni who supported us, for it is through your collective generosity that we are able to provide new scholarships, improve our facilities, increase student development programs and add to research and technology.



Every gift is important, regardless of size. Your gift enhances the giving power of our alumni each year and is applied to the areas that make the most impact to our students. Included in this newsletter is an envelope for your contribution. Although every gift makes an impact, donors of \$50 or above will receive a Methodist Alumni Association umbrella to display their Methodist Pride.

Your gift makes a difference and promises to show benefits in the form of well-educated, well-prepared and community-focused Methodist graduates!

Annual Methodist Alumni Reunion

April 26, 2014 marked the proud tradition of the Annual Methodist Alumni Reunion, held at Weaverridge Golf Club. With approximately 108 alumni in attendance, the group was able to reconnect with former classmates, build connections within the Methodist family and experience the impact Methodist College is currently making in the community. The program was inspiring, educational and hopefully, unforgettable, to those that were able to attend. The Class of 1964 was honored for their fifty years of memories and attendance was also strong from the milestone classes of 1954, 1959, 1969, 1974, 1979 and 1994. E. Kay Alexander, Class of 1974, received the college's highest award as the Distinguished Alumnus of the Year for her outstanding achievements. Leta Vaughan, Class of 1980, won the Alumni Service Award for her service to the community and charitable organizations. Tarah Gibbs, Class of 2008, was recognized as the Rising Star Alumnus for her significant accomplishments and leadership. The Methodist Alumni Association presented to the group about ways to stay active within the college and with current students as well as each other. Tours were also provided back at the college along with the Simulation Center and Learning Resource Center, located at UnityPoint Health – Methodist. Thank you to all of our alumni that were able to attend and for making the day a memorable occasion.

Save the date for next year's Alumni Reunion scheduled for June 6, 2015!

Alumni Service Award

Leta Vaughan, class of 1980 (not pictured)

- Gone on to achieve her Bachelors in Health Care Management, Masters in Midwifery and a Doctorate in Nursing
- Volunteers with service organizations focused on supporting women suffering from domestic violence
- Owns and operates a health and wellness center for women
- Faculty member that teaches RN, BSN and MSN programs
- Received the Outstanding New Clinical Assistant Professor Award for excellence in teaching

Rising Star Alumnus Award

Tarah Gibbs, class of 2008

- Displays professionalism, integrity and exceptional moral character
- Promotes, supports and helps to enrich the education and activities current students are involved in
- Supports alumni members and other working professionals in their careers by networking and peer support
- Has a strong vision as the Methodist Alumni Association President and serves of the College Board of Directors



Distinguished Alumnus Award

E. Kay Alexander, class of 1974

- Outstanding naval background with positions held as a Nurse Corps Officer in the Neuro ICU, Adult and Pediatric ICU and Emergency Department
- Served as a Nurse Manager overseas in Guam
- Completed her Bachelor of Science and Masters of Science while in the Ready Reserves
- Her reserve assignments included Staff Nurse, Officer in Charge and Senior Nurse Executive
- Recalled to active duty in October 2006 to serve as a Senior Nurse and Nurse Manager overseas
- Earned the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal and various service medals and unit awards
- Captain Alexander has had a dedicated career and is an accomplished alumni



On Sunday, November 2, 2014, the Methodist College Student Government Association will host the 2nd annual EDGE 5K Run/Walk and 10K Run. This event raises money for our endowed SGA scholarship, which is awarded to students who exhibit academic excellence, volunteerism and outstanding leadership qualities by participating in college and community activities. We had over 300 participants last year at our inaugural race and look forward to the continuing success of the event this year. By participating, you are helping to ensure that students who need financial support are able to pursue their dreams of becoming a healthcare professional.

For more information and to register, visit methodistCOL.edu/EDGE.

Methodist Alumni Supports EDGE

The Methodist Alumni Association would like to invite you to participate as a walker or runner with the Methodist Alumni group. Carla Wallis, a Methodist graduate, would like to head up the group and can be reached at Carla.Wallis@omnicare.com. Please contact her to join in the fun and support your alma mater while making a difference in the lives of current students.

You can also make a one-time \$35 donation to cover a student's entry fee for their race. Your contribution will assist us in rewarding students that make a difference on the Methodist College campus through their leadership both in and out of the classroom.

If you have a business that would like to sponsor the event, please contact Richole Ogburn at rogburn@methodistcol.edu for sponsorship opportunities.

New Master of Science in Nursing Degree

Methodist College is proud to announce it now offers a Master of Science in Nursing degree, with the purpose of developing nurse educators for the future.

Potential nursing students are being turned away nationally because of a shortage of nurse educators and by the end of this decade that will mean a woeful shortage of nurses. Methodist College is ready to help reverse that trend by not only by producing more nurse educators but also helping today's registered nurses to advance their own careers.

Through our program you will learn skills you can use immediately, advance in your career in academia or healthcare organizations and even prepare for doctoral-level studies. You will learn from faculty, in many cases on a one-on-one basis, who will share their own experiences to help you grow.

The Master of Science in Nursing program, Nurse Educator track is a 38 credit-hour course of study designed to help the working nurse who wants an advanced degree in

nursing. Depending on the program chosen, it can be completed in five or six semesters, including summer terms.

Financial aid is available through many sources and Methodist College is committed to helping students from all financial backgrounds find the option that best suits their needs.

While there is a need for nurse educators across the country, the career opportunities with an MSN don't end there. Indeed, health education leadership is valuable across the board, from clinicians to research, to directorships and positions in all types of health facilities as well as academia. More education brings more opportunity and many doors are open to nurses with master's and doctoral degrees.

If you or another nurse you know can benefit from the MSN program at Methodist College, find out more about the program by contacting us at (309) 671-5178, or admissions@methodistCOL.edu.



Methodist College: Remodeled

We have remodeled many areas of the college to not only enhance the comfort level of our students, but of our guests, as well. Our improved lobby area not only lets our guests know who we are and what we offer, but we hope it will instill even more pride into your, our distinguished alumni.



We don't plan to stop there. We plan to carry these enhancements to other parts of the college, including our Learning Resource Center and the Simulation Center.

The new décor goes beyond the furniture and rugs and plants and pictures on the wall – those things you can see. It also brings a message that this is our school and we are proud of it.

Meet Ollie!

The Methodist College mission states in part that the college will promote the holistic development of students. In addition the present strategic plan has as an objective to “Increase the level of student connectedness to Methodist College.” In an effort to assist our students’ holistic development and achieve our mission, multiple activities focusing on school spirit have been put into place this year. One of those activities has been the selection and naming of a mascot. After students selected the owl as the mascot, various artistic renderings as well as potential names were created for students to choose for the mascot. The owl selected is pictured below and the name selected is Ollie. The Student Government Association has already purchased a mascot suit and Ollie can be seen walking around our college campus. The students are very excited about the introduction of Ollie. The students would also like to bring Ollie to the hospitals to share him/her with everyone.



President's Scholarship Breakfast

On Friday April 11th Methodist College held our annual President's Scholarship breakfast. The scholarship breakfast honors both the students who have been selected to receive scholarships as well as the donors who make the scholarships possible. This year 59 scholarships totaling over \$45,000 were awarded. In addition to honoring the students and donors, the College also gives the "Outstanding Community Partner Award. Chosen by the nursing faculty, the winner is selected based on their support and service as a community clinical education site to our college. This year the Adams Street Living Center was the recipient of the award. The Adams Street Living Center has provided our students with an excellent supportive learning environment where they could work with and assist individuals who are coping with behavioral health issues. Our speaker this year was Dr. Arun Pinto who discussed the importance role of the advanced practice nurse in healthcare. A significant change in this year's breakfast was the



location. We held this year's activities at the Quest Charter Academy. Quest is an active "learning partner" of our College. Quest students are involved in our Explorer group whereby they investigate potential careers in healthcare through hands-on learning experiences. Our college is working to increase our activities in our partnership. To that end we were very pleased to announce at the breakfast the creation of the new Quest scholarship to be awarded by our college to Quest students who have participated in the Exploring program. The breakfast truly reinforced our mission of excellence in educational programming and service to our broader community.



Scholarship & Research Day

One of the many academic requirements for nursing students that is a key component of our quest to provide quality educational programs are the student research projects completed by students enrolled in our nursing research and internship courses. At the end of each academic semester, students at Methodist College who are enrolled in these courses present their research projects to the entire Methodist community during Scholarship Day. Students enrolled in Nursing 345 (Research) gain knowledge and skills that allow them to critically read and analyze nursing research studies. In Nursing 445 (Internship), students' research projects are based on an identified clinical problem

and are a result of the intensive clinical immersion and mentorship experience they receive in the course. This project, which is conducted by students working in teams, is designed to be an example of evidence-based practice.

This year's Scholarship & Research Day was held on May 2nd at the College with 170 students in attendance, 16 faculty members and four college administrators on hand. 28 posters were presented with four being awarded prizes. All winning students receive a year-long subscription to Nursing 2014 courtesy of the Student Government Association and faculty members Connie Gowda and Marjorie Getz.



Spring of 2014

Methodist College graduated its newest class on Saturday May 17th. Over 700 family members and friends were in attendance to watch 58 graduates receive their Bachelor of Science in Nursing degrees at the Embassy Suites Conference Center in East Peoria. Senator Dave Koehler was the commencement speaker. He addressed the audience about the changes in healthcare and how they will affect these new graduates in their practice life times. Awards were given to students excelling in leadership and clinical nursing. The Dean of Nursing presented students with their nursing pins. It is especially gratifying to see our students who have worked to achieve this most difficult goal. Congratulations and best wishes to our newest alumni. I am sure that you will make Methodist College proud!

Arends, Breanna
Baum, Amanda
Bigliazzi, Reno
Carroll, Samantha
Casey, Karen
Chapman, Courtney
Cheaito, Mohamad
Counterman, Caitlynn

Curtin, Michelle
Daugherty, Mark
David, Lori
Davis, Sherella
DeClercq, Sarah
Doty, Courtney
Dungan, Marianne
Foote, Kristen

Frietsch, Robin
Goskusky, Jorie
Gray, Jeremy
Gross, Amanda
Hahn, Emily
Hand, Courtney
Harmsen, Katelyn
Henry, Torrie

Hijazi, Amal
Hinnen, Alison
Hoben, Benjamin
Huffman-Frazee, Jodi
Janson, Kourtne
Johnson, Simeon
Kim, Westley
King, Kendra
Lemawu-Adi, Catherine
Link, Lauren
Lister, Geri
Marchini, Michelle
Mercado, Chiffon
Minter, Rebekah
Naramore, Tonya
Nolden, Lauren
Owens, Shelly
Oxarart, Sabrina
Parker, Savon

Powers, Brittany
Richardson, Holly
Rudd, Lisa
Scherler, Tina
Smithson, Jessica
Stark, Elizabeth
Sudaj, Ashley
Tackett, Rachel
Trail, Ashley
Vaughn, Haleigh
Watson, Darice
Weghorst, Valerie
Whitetree, Angela
Wilson, Kortney
Young, Chelsey

Our Greatest Legacy

The Methodist Alumni Association has a long and illustrious history. Founded as a vehicle for maintaining the relationships and traditions of Methodist graduates, it offers an opportunity for our alumni to stay in touch with one another and with our nursing program, as well as a chance to take part in continuing education programs, attend social gatherings, and support the college in general.

The active Alumni Board from the School of Nursing, College of Nursing and Methodist College, continuously work to engage alumni with current students. Learning opportunities for students to gain knowledge in resume writing, interviewing skills and professionalism were displayed in the 2013-14 academic year along with attendance at the Back to School BBQ, Alumni Speaker Series programs and snacks and support during finals week.

Methodist
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ASSOCIATION



Methodist College
UnityPoint Health

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*for information on upcoming
alumni events, visit
methodistCOL.edu/alumni*

JoAnn Landis Semelroth Memorial Scholarship

JoAnn Landis Semelroth was born in Kewanee, IL on June 4, 1927. After graduating from Kewanee High School in 1945, she began attending what was then Methodist Hospital Training School and graduated in 1948. She began her career as a Registered Nurse at Kewanee Hospital and then returned to Peoria in about 1950 to work at Methodist Hospital. JoAnn served as a Head Nurse on the Surgical Recovery Unit on 8 Glen Oak and also on a medical floor that was then called 5 West. JoAnn left Methodist for about 2 years in the mid-60's to serve as Head Nurse at Highview Nursing Home in Peoria. JoAnn returned to Methodist in 1967 as a Clinical Instructor at the Methodist School of Nursing. After 22 years of teaching over 1,085 students, she retired in 1989. JoAnn practiced as a Registered Nurse for over 40 years, working for 37 of those years at Methodist. Throughout her career, she demonstrated an exceptional capacity for compassion and advocacy in caring for patients and teaching student nurses. JoAnn received several awards during her career at Methodist such as Employee of the Month, Nurse of the Year and Outstanding Alumnus of the Year. JoAnn's granddaughter, Jenna Darnell, is also a nurse and graduated from Methodist College of Nursing with her BSN in 2011. JoAnn passed away at the age of 86 years on February 19, 2014. This scholarship has been established by her children, family members and friends as a Memorial Tribute to honor JoAnn's memory, her kind and giving spirit, and her Nursing career.

For more information, visit methodistCOL.edu/scholarships.

Save the Date!

Methodist
ALUMNI 
ASSOCIATION
LADIES NIGHT OUT

September 11th

5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Kickapoo Creek Winery

\$10 per person

includes one drink ticket for wine tasting

appetizers • door prizes

connect with former classmates

pampering • shopping



If you no longer wish to receive fundraising communications from UnityPoint Health-Methodist|Proctor you can e-mail methodistproctorfoundation@unitypoint.org or call us at 309-672-5741 and request on this call that we remove you from our contact list to receive communications for this purpose.