

# West Suburban College of Nursing connections

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A PUBLICATION FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF WEST SUBURBAN SCHOOL OF NURSING, AND WEST SUBURBAN COLLEGE OF NURSING



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## West Suburban Joins Resurrection Health Care

The Illinois Health Facilities Planning Board unanimously approved the affiliation of West Suburban Health Care with Resurrection Health Care on March 10, 2004. West Suburban College of Nursing is now a part of Resurrection Health Care.

The two organizations are a natural fit, sharing common values and goals. The core values of the College—Concern, Respect, Integrity and Excellence—correspond with Resurrection Health Care's core values of Compassion, Accountability, Respect, Excellence and Service. Both the College and Resurrection Health Care are committed to community health care and dedicated to nursing education, as well as a strong dedication to service to the poor and underserved.

Resurrection Health Care is sponsored by two religious orders, the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth and the Sisters of the Resurrection. Both of these orders have served in the Chicago area for more than 100 years and were founded by Polish noblewomen who not only felt the need to spread the word of God's love, but to also serve the sick.

Resurrection Health Care is a comprehensive health care system comprised of nine hospitals, 13 senior service facilities, a home health network, a

behavioral health network and child care centers. The hospitals in the System include Our Lady of the Resurrection Medical Center, Resurrection Medical Center, Saint Elizabeth Hospital, Saint Francis Hospital, Saint Joseph Hospital, Saint Mary of Nazareth Hospital Center, West Suburban Medical Center and Westlake Hospital.

Resurrection Health care offers the strength and stability to ensure high quality services for the community. In fact, \$73.5 million will be invested in West Suburban Medical Center over the next several years. In addition, the College will be the recipient of two upcoming fundraising activities, West Suburban Medical Center Auxillary's *Celebration 2004* and Resurrection Health Care's *Monarch Ball 2005*.

As a member of Resurrection Health Care, West Suburban Medical Center and the College of Nursing will be able to grow and flourish.





Rebecca Jones

The College is flourishing as a result of the affiliation between Resurrection Health Care (RHC) and West Suburban Medical Center (WSMC). Consequently, this will be a stellar year for philanthropy for the College as board members work with the College Board of Trustees Philanthropy Committee and the WSMC Foundation to conduct the first-annual fundraiser, *Charity Begins at Home*. The College will also be the recipient of the hospital's annual *Celebration* fundraiser. Donations will be used to purchase new equipment for the nursing laboratory including state-of-the-art instructional technology and six work stations equipped with examination tables, computers, physical assessment equipment and human patient simulators. The upgrade will provide students with opportunities to practice in a life-like environment. The College will also receive the funds from Resurrection Health Care's annual *Monarch Ball*.

The College hosted the Strategic Plan Kick-Off meeting on August 4, 2004. Focusing on technology, facilities and program expansion, the Strategic Plan will include assessment with benchmarks and targets as well as measure the College's success on key business and program outcome measures for students.

The College continues development of the Master of Science in Nursing program with a clinical nurse leader role. Part of the new program development and implementation is a demonstration project with the American Association of College's of Nursing.

Enrollment has increased by 27 percent over the past year and the second degree Fast Track Program is growing rapidly with applicants sufficient to fill both Fall and Spring semesters. Planning efforts will continue to be enhanced as the College grows to the fullest capacity with support of the RHC system.

## New Faces in the Crowd

### Director of Instructional Technology

**Irene Chalokwu, M.B.A.**, was named Director, Instructional Technology. Chalokwu received her bachelor's and master's degrees in Computer Information Systems from Bryant University, Smithfield, R.I. She has over 17 years of experience in information technology in higher education, serving in various capacities. Prior to joining the College, she worked as Assistant Director of Information Services at Saint Xavier University in Chicago, Ill. Chalokwu also served as Director of Information Technology at Lane College in Jackson, Tenn., and held technical and administrative positions at the University of Tennessee, Benedict College, University of South Carolina and Tuskegee University.

### Assistant Director of Enrollment Management

**J.C. Crane, B.A.**, has been named Assistant Director, Enrollment Management. Crane received a bachelor's degree from Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa with a major in Journalism and Mass Communications. Crane has 10 years of experience in higher education administration with a particular emphasis on enrollment management, student services, diversity training and multicultural programs.

### Registrar

**Kevin Derby, B.A.**, has been appointed Registrar for fiscal year 2005. Derby joined the College from Morrison University in Reno, Nev., where he served as Director of Student Services and Registrar. Previously, he was Assistant Registrar for Jacksonville University in Jacksonville, Fla. Derby has completed graduate hours in history and is interested in civil war research. He is currently completing course work towards a master's degree of Liberal Arts from Excelsior College's on-line program in Albany, N.Y.

### Faculty

**Laura Dulski, M.S.N., R.N.C.**, Assistant Professor of Nursing, Obstetrics. Dulski received her bachelor's degree in Nursing from Elmhurst College, Elmhurst, Ill., and her masters' degree in Nursing from Loyola University, Chicago, Ill. She has three years of teaching experience and has written several book chapters on obstetrics.

**Mary Horton Elliott, D.N.Sc., R.N.**, Associate Professor of Nursing, Psychiatry and Community Health. Elliott received her bachelor's degree in Nursing from Union College, Lincoln, Neb., and her master's degree in Nursing from Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Va. In addition, she received her doctorate of Nursing Science degree from Rush University, Chicago, Ill. Dr. Elliott has 15 years of teaching experience.

**Elizabeth Moxley, M.S., R.N.**, Assistant Professor of Nursing, Medical-Surgical and Pediatrics. Moxley received her bachelor's degree in Exercise Physiology from Wheaton College, Wheaton, Ill., as well as a bachelor's of science degree in Nursing and a master's degree in Nursing from Rush University, Chicago, Ill. In addition, Moxley is in the dissertation phase of earning her doctorate of Philosophy from the University of Illinois, Chicago, Ill. Ms. Moxley has nine years of part-time teaching experience and her research focuses on cardiology.

**Peggy Taboas, M.S.N., R.N.**, Assistant Professor of Nursing, Medical-Surgical and Obstetrics. Taboas earned a bachelor's degree in Nursing from Rush University, Chicago, Ill., and a master's degree in Nursing from Lewis University, Romeoville, Ill. Taboas has nine years of teaching experience and her last teaching position was at Advocate Kutsch College of Nursing.

**Mary Uscian, M.S.N., R.N.**, Assistant Professor of Nursing, Community Health. Uscian received her bachelor's degree in Nursing as well as a master's degree in Nursing from Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Ill. Uscian has 13 years of teaching experience.

Graduation: December 2003 and May 2004



*Pictured from left to right:* Christine Mouer, Jennifer Dunlop, Michelle Miller, Margaret McDowell, Nancy Jorgensen, Joanna Bukowska, Jennifer Laatsch, Angela Gathings, Jennifer Howard, Amanda Ary, Tonya Birge, Katrina Pearson

**DECEMBER 2003 GRADUATION**

Dr. Georgeen Polyak, Director of Public Health, Village of Oak Park, delivered an uplifting and inspiring address at the College's Graduation ceremony on December 11, 2003. The following graduates were honored at the ceremony:

- Amanda Leanne Ary\***
- Tonya Monique Birge**
- Joanna A. Bukowska**
- Jennifer L. Dunlop\***
- Angela Gathings**
- Jennifer M. Howard**
- Nancy Ann Jorgensen**
- Jennifer N. Laatsch\***
- Margaret Katherine McDowell\***
- Michelle Lee Miller**
- Christine Acaso Stitt Mouer\*\***
- Katrina Pearson**



*First row, left to right:* Jennifer Brinkmeyer, Kesi Cook, Michelle Freitag, Lindsey Mueller, Sylvia Policht, Nadia Reed, *Back row, left to right:* Elizabeth Ahlersmeyer, Jenny Korczyk, Barbara Levand, Danielle Croce, Jessica Jacobs, Sara Sigrist, Delphine Tar

**MAY 2004 GRADUATION**

Ardythe Tiesenga, Alumna, Class of 1956, delivered an enriching and inspirational address at the College's Graduation ceremony on May 4, 2004. The following graduates were honored at the ceremony:

- Elizabeth Rachel Ahlersmeyer**
- Jennifer K. Brinkmeyer**
- Kési A. Cook**
- Danielle Nichole Croce**
- Michelle Leneay Freitag**
- Jessica Marie Jacobs**
- Jenny Lynn Korczyk**
- Barbara Sue Levand**
- Lindsey Marie Mueller\*\***
- Sylvia Policht**
- Nadia Reed**
- Sara Sigrist**
- Delphine Tar**



**Saints Mary and Elizabeth  
Medical Center Representatives**

*Pictured left to right:*

**Marlene McGann**  
*Nurse Manager, Orthopedics,  
Rehabilitation and Pediatrics*

**Joyce Milewski**  
*Recruitment Coordinator, Human Resources*

**Karin Patel**  
*Employment Specialist, Human Resources*



**Gottlieb Memorial Hospital  
Representatives**

*Pictured left to right:*

**Michelle Bookout**  
*Education Coordinator*

**Jan Morgan**  
*Nurse Recruiter*



**Saint Joseph Hospital Recruiters**

*Pictured left to right:*

**Carol Ann Schleffendorf**  
*Director, Medical/Surgical Nursing*

**Cynthia Douglas**  
*Recruitment Coordinator, Human Resources*

## Nursing Recruitment Fair

On October 11, 2004, Resurrection Health Care (RHC) was involved in a recruitment fair for nursing students. The event allowed West Suburban College of Nursing students to meet with representatives throughout the RHC System and explore employment opportunities after graduation.

"RHC is dedicated to caring for the present and planning for the future with compassion and expertise," says Carol Ann Schleffendorf, Director of Medical/Surgical Nursing, Saint Joseph Hospital. "Events like this provide us with a wonderful opportunity to meet future nurses and teach them about the benefits of RHC."

Representatives from the following health care facilities throughout Chicagoland were present including: Bolingbrook Medical Center; Glen Oak Hospital; Gottlieb Memorial Hospital; Hinsdale Hospital; Holy Family Hospital; La Grange Memorial

"RHC is dedicated to caring for the present and planning for the future with compassion and expertise"

Hospital; Loretto Hospital; MacNeal Memorial Hospital; Our Lady of Resurrection; Resurrection Health Care Long-Term and Senior Care Services; Resurrection Medical Center; Saints Mary and Elizabeth Medical Center; Saint Francis Hospital; Saint Joseph Hospital; West Suburban Medical Center; and Westlake Hospital.



CORNER

The Professional Library received more than \$4,500 from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine to bring electronic document delivery to students and faculty of West Suburban College of Nursing. *The Enhanced Access to Electronic Health Information for West Suburban Health Care* project was funded with federal funds from the National Library of Medicine National Institutes of Health, under Contract No. NO1-LM-1-3513.

# Scholarship



Scholarship recipients for the 2004-2005 academic year are listed below. We would like to extend our congratulations to the recipients and our gratitude to the benefactors.

## RECIPIENTS

- **Elizabeth Ahlersmeyer**  
West Suburban Alumni Scholarship  
Presidential Scholarship  
Sharon E. Bolin Nursing Student Award
- **Kelly Bland**  
Robert E. Nicholas Scholarship
- **Jennifer Brinkmeyer**  
West Suburban Medical Center Auxiliary Scholarship  
Presidential Scholarship
- **Suzette Bumpas**  
West Suburban Medical Center Auxiliary Scholarship  
Cathryn M. Johnson Scholarship
- **Lymari Cardona**  
Presidential Scholarship
- **Kési Cook**  
West Suburban Medical Center Auxiliary Scholarship  
Ruth H. Replogle Scholarship  
Lucille W. Saxon Scholarship
- **Danielle Croce**  
West Suburban Medical Center Auxiliary Scholarship  
Presidential Scholarship
- **Christi Erwin**  
West Suburban Alumni Scholarship
- **Michelle Freitag**  
West Suburban Medical Center Auxiliary Scholarship  
Ethel Fearing Brown Memorial Scholarship  
Presidential Scholarship
- **Maria Garcia**  
Presidential Scholarship
- **Christina Icaey**  
Lucille W. Saxon Scholarship
- **Jessica Jacobs**  
West Suburban Medical Center Auxiliary Scholarship  
Presidential Scholarship
- **Amanda Kleinfelder**  
Presidential Scholarship
- **Jenny Korczyk**  
West Suburban Medical Center Auxiliary Scholarship  
Presidential Scholarship
- **Andrea Kuca**  
Presidential Scholarship
- **Barbara Levand**  
West Suburban Alumni Scholarship  
West Suburban Medical Center Auxiliary Scholarship  
Presidential Scholarship  
Ralph Jepsen Nursing Scholarship
- **Lindsey Mueller**  
West Suburban Medical Center Auxiliary Scholarship  
West Suburban Distinguished Nursing Scholarship
- **Anne Murray**  
West Suburban Distinguished Nursing Scholarship  
Lucille W. Saxon Scholarship
- **Emily Shorter**  
Presidential Scholarship
- **Sara Sigrist**  
West Suburban Medical Center Auxiliary Scholarship  
Presidential Scholarship
- **Kelly Sulo**  
West Suburban Medical Center Medical Staff Scholarship
- **Delphine Tar**  
West Suburban Medical Center Auxiliary Scholarship  
Lucille W. Saxon Scholarship
- **Kristin Tate**  
Presidential Scholarship
- **Kristin Thompson**  
Presidential Scholarship
- **Anya Turowiecki**  
West Suburban Medical Center Medical Staff Scholarship

## Class of 1953 Reunion

The class of 1953 celebrated its 50th reunion during a weekend retreat in October, 2003. Twenty-one members of the original 57 graduates shared life highlights and pictures; heard Mary Dowers' review of West Suburban life from her forthcoming book on her career as a nurse; and attended a worship service on Sunday.

*In attendance were:* Betty Bartlett Wilson, Ruth Bates Peterson, Kay Bowen Gibson, Marilyn Carlson Gustafson, Carolyn Dick Zibell, Joy Dockweiler Daniels, Virginia Habegger Spencer, Grace Haik Barron, Sally Haumerson Hay, Evelyn Jennings Johnson, Mary Kruger Dowers, Lois LeFort Wittenback, Gloria Lochrie Pontius, Altye Lubbers Hostetter, Mary Lois Miller, Cornelia Salm Mlodock, Shirley Schipper, Shirley Soule Edwards, Shirley Swan Vennerstrom, Ann Wilder James and Ruth Witmer Cook.



## LINCOLN AWARD

In November 2003, The Lincoln Foundation for Performance Excellence awarded West Suburban College of Nursing the 2003 *Lincoln Bronze Award for Commitment to Excellence* for their earnest efforts to adopt and apply continuous improvement principles. The College was one of 11 institutions to receive a Lincoln Award.

“The effectiveness of our program is evidenced by the performance of these organizations and the progress they have made”

“We are proud to honor all of these organizations,” says John L. Quick, Chairman of the Board, Lincoln Foundation, and retired Corporate Vice President, Quality, Baxter International. “These organizations have demonstrated a culture of performance excellence. Using the Lincoln criteria, they are able to sustain a level of success that will help ensure that our state will continue to lead the nation in creating and maintaining great jobs and building a bright future for Illinois’ citizens and communities. The effectiveness of our program is evidenced by the performance of these organizations and the progress they have made.”

The Lincoln Foundation for Performance Excellence is a not-for-profit organization, founded in 1994, that assists Illinois organizations to strive for performance excellence by planning and implementing sound management processes. Each year a select Lincoln Board of Examiners review and assess award applications and a Panel of Judges determine which applicants have earned recognition. The organization created the award patterned after the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award.

On April 21, 2004, West Suburban College of Nursing was honored by the House of Representatives of the 93rd Illinois General Assembly when House Resolution HR780 was read into record in Springfield, Illinois. The Resolution honored the 2003 Lincoln Foundation Award recipients.

# Alumna



## MAKING NEWS



**Lillian M. Leach Whitson Medley, Class of 1940, was honored for a lifetime of achievement in nursing. The Arkansas Nurses Association honored Leach on October 30, 2003, at their annual convention with a luncheon banquet and special award ceremony.**

### Rehwaldt Honored by Literacy Volunteers

Ruth Rehwaldt, Director of Business and Financial Affairs, has been honored as the *Volunteer of the Year* by the Literacy Volunteers of Western Cook County. A former first grade teacher, Ruth still gets a kick out of teaching. “It’s so exciting to see someone learn,” Ruth says. “I taught first graders to read, and I loved it.”

Ruth points out that a teaching background is neither a requirement to be a literacy volunteer nor a pre-cursor of success or failure. Her current student is a Maywood woman in her early thirties with a young daughter. The woman graduated high school in the City of Chicago, but somehow never learned to read.



Ruth has been tutoring for two years and has no idea of how the selection for volunteer of the year was made. “I know that there are people who have been doing this a lot longer than I have,” Ruth observed. “When you

only have a couple hours a week, it takes a long time. Success isn’t immediate.” Obviously, Ruth is doing something right. Keep up the good work!

### Alumna Working as Missionary

May 2004 alumna, Lindsey Mueller, is working as a missionary in Guatemala taking Spanish during the week and tending a local clinic on Saturday. Lindsey reports that she is working with a Guatemalan doctor who visits the clinic part-time. She is living with a local family along with four other missionaries. You can email Lindsey at [oneheartinhim@yahoo.com](mailto:oneheartinhim@yahoo.com).



West Suburban College of Nursing would like to acknowledge the passing of the following alumni:

**Mary Lou Gartman Hambley, Class of 1956**

**Ellen Friese Gustafson, Class of 1948**

**Betty Garner Murphy, Class of 1948**

**Fern Ann Morgan, Class of 1941**

## Charity Begins at Home Fundraiser

The West Suburban Medical Center (WSMC) Foundation hosted a fundraiser, *Charity Begins at Home*, to benefit the West Suburban College of Nursing on June 5, 2004. Participants started the evening with cocktails and engaging conversation at the College and proceeded to a designated host and hostess' house to enjoy a dinner party with a special theme.

Carl and Julia Faust hosted a *Down on the Farm* dinner party. Chancellor of the College, Rebecca Jones, and her husband, Bob, joined Marvin Tiesenga, M.D. and Ardythe Tiesenga to create an *Island Moods* affair. Elaine Kirk, Steering Committee Member, entertained her guests with an *Evening in Paris*, and WSMC Chief Executive Officer, Jay Kreuzer, and his

wife, Jean, held a *French Cooking Class*. Elliott Kroger, M.D., Chairman of the College of Nursing Board of Directors, hosted a *Cucina Roma*, while Oak Park residents Ray and Lisa Lewis's guests traveled to Kasbah with a *Moroccan Dinner*. Jane Matz, Director, Quality and Utilization Management, WSMC, whisked us *Down to the Shore*, as River Forest resident Nancy Quinn wine and dined us *Under the Tuscan Sun*. College of Nursing Board Secretary, Sherlynn Reid, treated guests to *A Night of Soul Food*, and Board Member, Leonard Saxon, M.D., and his wife, Char, presented the *Royal Wave*. Board Member Marianne Schiavone and husband, Dave, offered a *Home on the Range* feast.

### THE COLLEGE WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND ITS GRATITUDE TO THE FOLLOWING 2003 DONORS:

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Just get married? Have you had a baby? Have you received an advanced degree, new job or promotion recently? West Suburban College of Nursing would like to include this information in future issues of **connections**. Please forward the details and photographs to:

**West Suburban College of Nursing Alumni Office**  
3 Erie Court ■ Oak Park, IL 60302  
Email: [rockm@wscn.edu](mailto:rockm@wscn.edu)

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