



ALUMNI NEWS

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BROUGHT TO YOU BY MERCY COLLEGE OF OHIO



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Mercy College is excited to host Alumni and Friends Weekend 2021 on September 25-26. Alumni, guests, family, and friends are encouraged to join us for a variety of activities throughout the weekend. Events include a virtual Mercy Mile Walk and in-person Alumni Reunion & Banquet, Mass, and Brunch. Events are free, unless otherwise noted. Registration is required. Masks are required at all in-person events.

To register, order a shirt, or purchase 50/50 tickets, [complete the online form](#) or contact Hannah Bohn – Coordinator of Alumni/Grants at 419-251-8993 or

alumni@mercycollege.edu

*Shirts can be shipped. A portion of proceeds from each shirt sale will fund student scholarships.

*50/50 ticket numbers are assigned electronically. Need not be present to win.

*RSVP deadline for Reunion & Banquet is Thursday, September 16 at 10am EST. RSVP for other events, shirt sales, and 50/50 will remain open until the start of Alumni and Friends Weekend.

LEAH WELDY '11 SUPPORTS MERCY COLLEGE'S LEGACY



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Morgan Marie Weddings & Portraits

When Leah Weldy attended Mercy College nearly a decade ago, she learned what it meant to practice nursing with some significant core values. "They taught us compassion, service, human dignity, loving people and meeting them where they are and those values were huge," she said. "I definitely took them with me when I became a nurse."

Leah said she benefitted from the Presidential Scholarship while at Mercy College and she is grateful that she was able to graduate without an overwhelming amount of student loan debt. "Anymore it's so hard for kids to get a good education and not be in debt," she said.

Leah and her husband Kirk are proud to be a part of Mercy College's legacy through donations to the Mercy Health Foundation. "In the world we live in today, we need people to take care of other people," she said. "Mercy College is a great school to do that."

[Make your contribution today.](#)



BLESSING FOR MERCY PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDENTS' STETHOSCOPES

Mercy College's inaugural class of Physician Assistant (PA) students participated in a **Blessing of Stethoscopes** ceremony on Friday, August 27. The ceremony was part of the students' welcome to the program and to the campus. The ceremony provided a blessing for the students and the patients they will serve.

The first stethoscope serves as a milestone in the professional life of every PA student and the journey that they are beginning. The stethoscope is symbolic and of the call to body, mind, and spiritual healing and of the bond between the patient and clinician.

The new program is 118 credit hours and offered at Mercy College in Toledo with preceptored clinical experiences at Mercy Health and healthcare facilities throughout the United States. The seven-semester program prepares students to sit for the Physician Assistant National Certification Examination. [Read more.](#)



FALL 2021 SEMESTER ON CAMPUS

Mercy College welcomed Physician Assistant students to campus on August 23 and on August 30 for the remainder of the student body. Fall 2021 is the first semester since the COVID-19 pandemic began, where all land-based students are on campus for face to face lectures. Masks are a requirement while in the building. The College Health Nurse for Fall semester is Karla Vitte, who is continuously monitoring students, faculty, and staff.

Fall 2021 preliminary enrollment at Mercy College is 1332 students, which include those that are beginning their first semester at Mercy, those continuing in their program of study, and those that are dual enrolled at partner schools. Final enrollment is being calculated and will be posted to the [Mercy College News page](#).

Kathleen Moriarty Lilly '81 and Carol Annesser '80 - ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT/DISTINGUISHED GRADUATES

Due to COVID-19, Alumni and Friends Weekend 2020 took place in a virtual format and a [Distinguished Graduate Award](#) was not given out. Therefore, we are excited to announce two Distinguished Graduates for 2021! These graduates will be recognized at the Alumni Reunion/Banquet during [Alumni and Friends Weekend](#) on Saturday, September 25.

Kathleen (Kathy) Moriarty Lilly is a 1981 graduate of Mercy School of Nursing. After graduation, Kathy went on to graduate Magna Cum Laude with her BSN from University of Toledo. Today, she serves as the Executive Vice President for Organ Procurement Operations at LifeLink Foundation, which involves operational oversight for LifeLink of Georgia, Florida, and Puerto Rico. Through LifeLink, Kathy has

worked with her staff in Puerto Rico to recover their first donor and facilitate transplants within weeks after Hurricane Maria. She has served with the Association of Organ Procurement Organization and on the Disease Transmission Ad Hoc Committee for the United Network for Organ Sharing. Kathy has authored and contributed to scholarly publications, contributed to media stories, TV, radio, and print.

When asked about one of the most memorable moments in her career, Kathy shares that it became a very small world when she learned that one of her Mercy classmates needed a heart transplant. "It was a daunting responsibility as the transplant coordinator serving the center where (my classmate) waited to assure the lifesaving gift was obtained in time." Fortunately, Kathy was able to assist her classmate with receiving the life-saving transplant, and her classmate then went on to resume a very productive life as a parent, spouse, and active nurse.

Carol Annesser is a 1980 graduate of Mercy School of Nursing. After graduation, Carol went on to receive her BSN from Mercy College of Detroit and MSN from Eastern Michigan University. Today, she serves at That Neighborhood Free Health Clinic, which exists to express the love of Christ by providing free quality health care to the uninsured and underserved in the north Toledo neighborhood and the surrounding community. Her nominator writes, "The Clinic's mission mirrors the mission of Mercy Health and is a reflection of Carol's life of serving and giving to others." At the Clinic, Carol continues to serve the Mercy College community by overseeing nursing students who receive clinical hours there.

Carol's nominator writes, "Carol was a mentor to me and an excellent nurse. She served many roles within the old Mercy Hospital with her final role as a nursing supervisor. She was well respected, very professional, and served as a resource to all of us. After Mercy School of Nursing closed, Carol continued with her education and taught our young as a professor for the Mercy College ASN program. The needs were many, patients and staff calling for help and advice. She never complained."

Congratulations Kathy and Carol! Thank you for your demonstrated commitment to the Mercy Values of compassion, excellence, human dignity, justice, sacredness of life, and service.

We're proud of the ambitions and accomplishments of our students and alumni. Each month, current students and/or alumni will be recognized. Tell us your Mercy story. Please email suggested names to Alumni@mercycollege.edu or complete a nomination form [here](#).

Peer-nominations and self-nominations are accepted.

The Mercy College of Ohio Alumni Department is committed and focused on providing Mercy alumni an experience that is informative, engaging, and fun! We're there for you whether you're enjoying one of our alumni events or supporting Mercy as a volunteer.

Your Alumni Department goes the extra mile to keep you informed.

Your Mercy Pride is ours as well – To ensure this newsletter is as informational as possible, please send your comments and article submissions to:

Mercy College of Ohio
Attn: Alumni Department

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