



## April 2014 e-Newsletter

### The School is 75!

75 candles? Sounds a bit like a bonfire, doesn't it? Well, without setting anything aflame, the School of Nursing will be celebrating its 75th anniversary and you are invited to join in the festivities! Our 75th Anniversary and Alumni Celebration will be held on Friday, May 16th at the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, on Shady Avenue in Shadyside. Our celebration will include hors d'oeuvres, wine and beer bar, valet parking, and access to all exhibits at the Center. The event begins at 6:30 pm and registration is \$50.00 per person. You can download our event brochure [here](#) or visit the [Events page](#) for more information. We hope to see you there!

Also, don't forget that we're inviting you to submit memories of your time here at the School of Nursing. Tell us your story via this [survey](#).

### BSN Student Helps Young Caretakers |

Mariah Streck (BSN Class of 2014) was only three years old when her father, then in his early 50s, was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. Growing up, she was part of the team of family and professionals who took care of her father until his death in 2007. At this point in time, it's estimated that 5.2 million people have this terrible disease. Of that, approximately 200,000 were diagnosed before they turned 65, many in their 40s and 50s.

Mariah is putting her experience to use in order to help other children of early onset Alzheimer's patients. As part of her community clinical placement at Pitt's Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, she introduced the concept of a support group for these young people. "I was doing research on family support groups and other resources when I noticed that there were no groups designed for this particular demographic," explains Mariah. "So, with the support of my preceptor and the Pittsburgh Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, I created a virtual support group." Mariah became a certified support group facilitator and will host the monthly meetings on Google Hangouts beginning in April 2014. Even after she graduates this month, Mariah plans to continue leading the sessions, one benefit of using distance technology. Undoubtedly, there will be a national, if not international, need for the type of support group she founded. Those interested in more information about the project should e-mail [growinguppurple@alz.org](mailto:growinguppurple@alz.org).

### Pitt Nursing Students Represented at NSNA Convention

Ten Pitt Nursing students participated in the 62nd Annual Convention of the National Student Nursing Association. Held in Nashville from April 9-13, this convention brought together more than 3,000 students from across



the United States and its territories. The event featured leadership and career development activities for the students, presentations by renowned nursing leaders, opportunities to network, explorations of leading-edge topics within nursing, and sessions on effective teaching for faculty attendees. Associate Dean for External Relations, Dr. Susan Albrecht served as the School's faculty representative at the convention, accompanied by the following students:

### **Juniors**

Melanie Gumina  
Meaghan Maydick  
Patricia Morel  
Jaclyn Primavera

Alyssa Sartore  
Abigail Slocum  
Samantha Weiss  
Christina Wingate

### **Sophmores**

Noreen Ahmad  
Abigail Scheerer

## **School Receives Grant from the Jonas Center for Scholarships**

The School of Nursing is pleased to announce that faculty members Catherine Bender and Donna Nativio successfully sought funding from the Jonas Center for Nursing and Veterans Healthcare to fund scholarships for PhD and DNP students here at Pitt. The grant for \$30,000 will be used to support one PhD Jonas Nurse Leader Scholar, one PhD Jonas Veterans Healthcare Scholar, and one DNP Jonas Veterans Healthcare Scholar over a two-year period. The Jonas Scholar Grants are part of a national effort to stem the nursing faculty shortage and prepare future nurses to better serve America's evolving healthcare system. Pitt is pleased to be among the 110 schools supported by the Jonas Center for Nursing and Veterans Healthcare.



The Jonas Center for Nursing and Veterans Healthcare is a significant funder of academic institutions' efforts to increase the number of nursing faculty so as to adequately prepare appropriate numbers of nurses. In 2013, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing reported the lowest enrollment increase in professional RN programs in the past five years, which they attributed to a shortage of qualified faculty.

## **Two Pitt Nursing Alumni Lead Nursing Schools**



Dr. Barbara Broome

Congratulations to two of Pitt Nursing's alumni who recently ascended to the top academic leadership position in schools of nursing. Barbara Broome (PhD '97) assumed the position of Dean at Kent State University's School of Nursing in March 2014. Dr. Broome most recently served as associate dean and professor in the College of Nursing at the University of South Alabama. In the same month, Valerie M. Howard (MSN '95) was named dean of the School of Nursing and Health Sciences at Robert Morris University. There, Dr. Howard has



Dr. Valerie M. Howard

also served as interim dean, assistant dean for external affairs, director of development, and director of the school's simulation center. These two amazing educators join several other distinguished alumni serving as deans across the country.

## Share Your Good News!

Bring us up-to-date on your accomplishments. Provide the details via this form or send an e-mail to Janice Devine, Director of Alumni Relations & Development, at <mailto:jad154@pitt.edu>