



LOOKING BACK... LOOKING FORWARD

Thanks to a generous grant from the Mount Carmel Foundation, our alumni archives are now displayed in a new exhibit in the Mount Carmel Health Sciences Library. Display cabinets showcase a century's worth of priceless keepsakes, and new display panels feature class composites. In addition, a history mural depicting a timeline from 1886 will be installed this May to complete the exhibit. The history mural portrays the founders of Mount Carmel Hospital who invited the Sisters of the Holy Cross to come to Columbus to manage the new hospital. The mural depicts each decade to 2014 when MCCN President/Dean Ann Schiele, PhD, RN, transitions to emeritus status, and it features early day photographs, along with descriptive vignettes from the founding of the School of Nursing,

through mid-century, to present day, visibly demonstrating milestones and achievements through the years.

Bits and Pieces

Stevó Roksandic, MBA, MLIS, director of the Mount Carmel Health Sciences Library, often lamented that the archives – in the lower level of Marion Hall – were out of sight of most prospective viewers. As a professional librarian, he knew that the numerous items – including nursing uniforms, caps and pins, medical instruments, class photographs and yearbooks, and historic documents – would be well received by alumni, students, faculty, staff and visitors.

“Every time I went down there, I became more concerned about how these precious items could be made available,” Roksandic said. “I saw so much history just sitting there, displayed but not in a highly visible area. Then I would come upstairs and see



today's students focusing on their electronic homework and using technology to complete nursing projects. I thought, 'these young ones ought to have a better chance to see how those who came before them worked and studied and cared for their patients.' I know that this project will give students such a feeling of belonging, knowing the strong tradition they are now a part of," he added.

His idea to bring into the present the objects of the past was the seed for the commemorative project, which came about through the collaboration of the Development office, the Alumni Association and the Health Sciences Library, along with the support and encouragement of President/Dean Ann Schiele, PhD, RN.

Generous Funding

Jan Burkey, director of Development, MCCN, championed the idea to the Mount Carmel Foundation, writing a grant proposal that detailed all aspects of the multi-pronged project.

"This endeavor is an important tribute to the architects of our past and trailblazers and role models for our future," said Burkey in describing the goal. "It commemorates the Sisters of the Holy Cross, the many graduates of both the School and the College, our visionary leaders – from Mother M. Angela Gillespie, CSC, in 1886 to Dr. Ann Schiele in 2014 – and numerous accomplishments and important milestones over the years," she added.

Burkey stressed that members of the Mount Carmel Alumni Association, including Judi Hollern Brown ('75, '12), and Pat Steele Skunda '72, '10, who co-chaired the Alumni Association Archive Committee, worked tirelessly unearthing treasures, and collecting information. For the mural, they gathered photos and chronologically noted milestones of the School and College. For the exhibit, they helped prepare them and coordinated with Library Science student interns from the University of Akron, whom Roksandic had recruited to assist with professional archiving duties. Many dedicated people put in countless hours identifying, researching and developing decade-by-decade milestones.

"This dynamic display will visually inspire others as it commemorates and celebrates Mount Carmel's continuing legacy of care," Burkey noted. "We are truly grateful to the Mount Carmel Foundation for recognizing the benefit and value of documenting the College's strong foundation and enduring mission for future generations."

Our Next Century of Excellence in Nursing Education

This forward-looking vignette, set amidst modern-day photographs, including the beautiful Grohe mural, which graces the entrance of the College, and milestones from the most recent record-breaking and technology-filled 10 years, embodies the mission and values of Mount Carmel.

"As we enter our twelfth decade, we stand steadfast in our commitment to excellence in nursing education," notes Dr. Schiele.

"We will always reflect on our beginnings and take pride in our advancements, but we also look ahead to an ever-expanding horizon that promises persistent change. Innovations in healthcare delivery, and advancements in medical technologies and treatments, as well as expanding roles for professional nurses at all levels challenge us to constantly examine our efforts and evolve our outcomes as we endure to educate nurses of the future. That is our hope ... and our promise."

Our hope also is that you will find an opportunity to make time to visit us soon, share fond memories of your days at Mount Carmel as you find your photo on the Class Wall, reminisce as you view the beautifully preserved archival display, and experience for yourself the stunning new History of Mount Carmel Excellence in Nursing Education Mural.

