

Media Release



99 Cornish Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 1A2, Canada

www.misericordia.mb.ca

CARING • RESPECT • TRUST

June 3, 2024

Misericordia School of Nursing Alumni celebrates 100th Anniversary

Although Misericordia's School of Nursing closed in 1997, its alumni remain relevant and vibrant today - fiercely proud of their education and the instilled Mission of the Misericordia Sisters.

To celebrate, masses of alumni are gathering at Misericordia Health Centre to share their stories - from yesterday and today!

Extensive archival material and nursing memorabilia will be on display!

INTERVIEWS/PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES

What: 100th Anniversary Celebration

When: TOMORROW 1 p.m., Tuesday June 4, 2024

Where: MHC Rooftop Solarium (take Elevator B to the 7th floor)

Who:

- Leah Restall (Class of '90), Misericordia Health Centre Board Director
- Céline Dubé -Balcita (Class of '96), School of Nursing Alumni President
- Janine Ballingall Scotten (Class of '83)

-30-

Media Contact:

Heidi Klaschka, Director of Corporate Affairs & Engagement
Cell: 204.791.4417



BACKGROUND: Misericordia School of Nursing Alumni

The creation of the Misericordia Nurses' Alumni in 1924 was intended to keep graduates in touch with each other. This was seen as vitally important because the initial small (8-15) all-female classes lived in residence during their schooling and became very close. Graduation often meant moving to new places and communicating was restricted to mainly postal mail.

In the beginning years, the Alumni concentrated on providing social events for members. The Alumni hosted fancy dress balls, high teas, curling and baseball tournaments and bridge games. These events also served as fundraisers. The Alumni donated roses at graduation for each student who was graduating. They also funded awards and medals recognizing excellence in charting, clinical competence and comportment.

Membership in the Alumni was granted to each new graduate for a year. After the first year, graduates paid a nominal fee (\$0.20 in 1924) to support the costs of a mimeographed mailed newsletter that told of members' weddings, birthdays of children, deaths, job changes, and recognitions. The newsletter also highlighted changes in staff and major events (anniversary celebrations, curriculum renewal, construction of new buildings) at Misericordia Hospital or School of Nursing.

A highlight of Alumni membership was the attendance at the Annual Dinner. This was an occasion for reunion of classmates, as well as an opportunity to celebrate those classes who had reached milestone anniversaries. In 2024, the Alumni will recognize many classes who are celebrating their 50th, 60th, 65th and 75th year since graduating.



There have been many changes over the years that have necessitated a revision of the Alumni's priorities. The necessity for students to live in residence disappeared in the 1960s. Males were admitted to the School of Nursing and students were permitted to be married.

More students were admitted to each class in the 1960s than in the

beginning years. As classes grew to approximately 200 students, it was likely that not all students in a class knew each other. The School of Nursing closed in 1997, meaning that only graduates from 1997 and earlier could be members of the Alumni.



As in early times, the Alumni have remained committed to connecting graduates with each other. The newsletter is now digital, although members can receive the newsletter in the mail if they choose. The newsletter often contains articles of interest to members, such as interviews of graduates who were students during WWII. The Annual Dinner remains an occasion of celebration and connection: it is June 5, 2024 this year.

The members of the Alumni share a pride in and commitment to the Mission of the Misericordia Sisters that is evident in the services provided by the Health Centre and the Foundation. Alumni members generously support programs such as art therapy and the archives in support of this Mission.

There are many notable graduates who are included in the roster of Alumni members. These include a war hero, a knighted health-care advocate and many who have been recognized for their contributions to the health of Canadians. We believe our education at Misericordia and the values that were instilled in us then have resulted in Misericordia graduates being widely respected throughout the world.

-Dr. Barbara Paterson, Class of '68