

Breté

SUMMER 2013
VOLUME 3

Retirement Reception

You are cordially invited to attend a retirement reception for Dr. Anne Liners-Brett on July 16, 2013 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Fountain Plaza Room at Cox North/Cox College located at 1423 North Jefferson Avenue. Please join us as we honor Dr. Brett for six outstanding years of service and dedication to Cox College and wish her well in her retirement.



Cox College is committed to excellence by meeting the educational needs of students and the health care community.

 **COX COLLEGE**
CoxHealth

Greetings from the President

Graduation is the culmination of another academic year being over. May 2013 was the largest graduating class with 188 students leaving Cox College to begin the next chapter of their life. This is a very exciting time as faculty and staff congratulated students they have come to know and love as they walk across the stage.

This was a bitter, sweet graduation for me personally. After six wonderful years at Cox College, I have decided to retire. The past six years have been blessed with opportunities to meet wonderful alumni and hear your stories depicting the rich history of Burge School of Nursing and Cox College. It has been an honor to work with the excellent workforce at Cox College dedicated to building on that legacy while implementing the mission to "meet the educational needs of students and the health care community." I think the Cox College of 2013 is consistent with the vision of President Elaine Crabtree, faculty, staff and the Board of Trustees when they decided to begin the journey to transition from a school of nursing to a college offering undergraduate and graduate programs in both nursing and health science.

August 2013 is a good time for new leadership at the college. The 2013-2014 Academic Year will include developing the strategic plan for 2014-2016 and



preparing for the Higher Learning Commission Comprehensive Accreditation visit in March 2015. A new president needs to be an integral part of these exciting initiatives to design the preferred future of Cox College building on a strong foundation of educational excellence and quality outcomes.

Cox College will always hold a special place in my heart; it truly is an exceptional college with a great future. Thank you for the opportunity to be part of Cox College and I hope our paths cross again.

Dr. Anne Brett

Cox College Welcomes VPAA

Dr. Lance Ratcliff joined Cox College as Vice President of Academic Affairs January 2013. He previously served as Dean of Business & Science at Eastern New Mexico University-Roswell, where he supervised academic programs and courses in accounting, business, computer applications, mathematics, and life and physical science. In addition, he oversaw the campus Physical Education Center. Prior to his time in Roswell, Dr. Ratcliff was Chair of the University of Central Missouri's Department of Nutrition, during which time he coordinated the implementation of new academic programs and the University's largest endowed scholarship fund, as well as helped manage a \$36 million building renovation project.

Dr. Ratcliff attended Lakeland College in Sheboygan, WI, graduating with degrees in biology and chemistry, and was a team captain on the Muskie baseball team that finished 5th in the NCAA Division III College World Series. He then earned his M.S. and Ph.D. in Nutrition and Food Science at Auburn University in Alabama while completing the dietetic internship at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, SC en route to becoming a Registered Dietitian.

Dr. Ratcliff has authored and presented many scholarly publications, and he has advised several student research projects, some of which have involved his nutrition work with athletes at Auburn University, the University of North Carolina-Charlotte, and the University of Central Missouri.

We are proud to welcome Dr. Lance Ratcliff to Cox College.

Cox College Academic Affairs



DR. LANCE RATCLIFF

Greetings to you on behalf of Academic Affairs, and thank you for your role with Cox College. It is a pleasure to be part of the team at Cox, a team focused on preparing today's students to become tomorrow's health care leaders.

One of the many impressive characteristics of Cox College is the pride our workforce has in serving students, and that pride will soon be extended to another quality program – the Master of Science in Nutritional Diagnostics (MND). Recently approved by accrediting bodies, this new graduate degree will add breadth and depth to the current Cox College Dietetic Internship, and the first class of MND students will be admitted by the time this update is printed.

In addition, Cox College is anxiously awaiting final Higher Learning Commission approval for the proposed Master of Science in Occupational Therapy, as well as the proposed post-Master's certificate in Nursing. Some of you reading this were involved with the February site visit for the programs; thank you for volunteering your time and extending your hospitality.

As is evident, many exciting initiatives are occurring at Cox College, and the future is indeed bright. We are proud to empower the personal and professional success of our students, and we hope you are proud to be a friend of Cox College. Thanks again, and please feel free to contact us or stop by for a visit.

Alumni Spotlight

Brenda McCulloch R.N., MSN, RCIS



Brenda McCulloch, R.N., MSN, RCIS, (class of 1978) was chosen as the "Clinical Nurse Specialist of the Year" by the National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists (NACNS). Brenda received her award at the annual NACNS

meeting in San Antonio, Texas on Friday, March 8.

Brenda is employed by Sutter Medical Center, Sacramento in California, and her nomination was prompted by the catheterization lab staff who felt she deserved to be honored for all of her valuable work. Siobhan Geary, R.N., clinical nurse specialist at SMCS stated, "I nominated Brenda for CNS of the Year because her passion, dedication and expertise have made a tremendous impact on the care of patients, the knowledge competency of staff and visibility of the role of the CNS in our community."

Brenda has an extensive background in all areas of cardiovascular nursing. She is currently a cardiovascular CNS in the catheterization lab, yet her influence goes well beyond the walls of her specialty

care. Brenda sits on numerous quality committees and was instrumental in implementing "Code STEMI," which brought numerous departments together to make sure the heart attack patients receive the most efficient care possible. She also led the ventricle assist device program and recently led the implantation of the transcatheter aortic valve replacement program.

"Receiving the award of Clinical Nurse Specialist of the Year from the National Association of Clinical Nurses Specialist is an amazing honor," Brenda said. "I am extremely fortunate to have a job that I refer to as the 'best job in the world' and work with groups of people who are all highly committed to excellence in all that we do for our patients and their families."

Congratulations Brenda on this tremendous recognition!



COX COLLEGE

CoxHealth

1423 N. Jefferson Ave.
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Alumni

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This spring has been an exciting time as we welcomed 188 graduating students into the Cox College Alumni Association on May 17th at the O'Reilly Family Center on the campus of Drury University. It was especially exciting to have Dr. Gregory Alexander, class of 1988, return to his alma mater and serve as the graduation speaker. The Cox College Student Government Association provided a delightful brunch the morning of graduation where students received their honor cords and college pins – a very special thanks to them for all their hard work ensuring the day was even more special for graduates.

Summer is always a busy time, but we do hope you are making plans to attend the class

reunions that are scheduled this summer allowing opportunities to get together with classmates and tour the college.

We always enjoy hearing about what is happening in your life so we can share it in the college newsletter. To share your news, email me at Todd.Rutledge@coxcollege.edu. Please continue to stay in touch; we love to hear from you.

Feel free to stop by Cox College any time you're in the area and experience the excitement of our campus first hand!

We also hope you will mark your calendar for Alumni Weekend,

which will be held September 20th & 21st.

Please keep those dates open and watch for details via mail, email, and the Cox College web site at coxcollege.edu. Should you be travelling to Springfield, contact the alumni office for local hotel discounts available for Cox College Alumni.

