

Letteré

SPRING 2012
VOLUME 2

Cox College Collaborates with Drury University in Cabool, MO

For the past six months, Cox College and Drury University's College of Graduate and Continuing Studies leadership have been discussing the possibility of developing a dual degree program in Cabool, MO. Cabool is approximately 75 miles east of Springfield. Drury University has a branch campus in Cabool which is one of six branch campuses operated by the College of Graduate and Continuing Studies.

After a visit to the community and campus, what began as a "what if" discussion will become reality in Fall 2012 when the first cohort of Drury/Cox College students will be admitted to the dual degree program. The curriculum is developed so that at the end of a four year plan of study the graduates will earn a Bachelor of Science in Health Services Leadership from Drury University and either a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) or an Associate of Science in Medical Assisting (ASMA) from Cox College.

An assessment of the Cabool region indicated that there are 53 medical clinics within a 25-mile radius of Cabool. Medical Assisting graduates with a degree in health service leadership will be well positioned to meet not only the medical assistant role, but they will also have the skills to become a clinic/office manager. The closest BSN program is a 75-mile drive from Cabool. Therefore, bringing nursing education to the community will open new opportunities for students in the five-county region served by the campus.

When we visited the Drury Campus in Cabool, we talked with a very enthusiastic campus administrator. As we discussed the idea of a cohort of 25 students, she indicated there is a pent-up demand for health care education in the region by saying, "we probably have that many right now just waiting!"

This collaboration looks like another opportunity to implement the college mission and a win/win for everyone: Cox College, Drury University, students and the Cabool health care community.

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



Greetings from the President

Spring in the Ozarks is a special time of re-awakening, new growth and fresh starts. Cox College is blossoming along with the season!

We are re-awakening our focus on excellence through the Baldrige initiatives; enrollment certainly is demonstrating new growth; and fresh starts abound including the Drury/Cox College collaborative program in Cabool and moving the CoxHealth Education Center to the college.

The Spring 2012 enrollment at the college set a new record with 839 students. The enrollment growth is across the college, but the most significant growth was in the RN to BSN and the MSN programs. This is very exciting and clearly demonstrates the college's core value of "lifelong learning." We are anticipating 178 graduates on May 11, 2012, the largest graduating class in our history. This graduating class also demonstrates the growth in the health science programs with 98 nursing graduates (including 14 MSN) and 80 health science graduates!

In December, Governor Nixon announced \$1 million in grants to educate additional nurses across the state. We are very excited that our proposal was one of seven colleges in the state to be funded. The \$148,978 will allow us to

add two new positions: an RN to BSN Academic Advisor and a Simulation Specialist. With the growth in RN to BSN/MSN, students having an academic advisor should streamline the process of returning to college and enhance retention. The addition of a simulation specialist will allow us to take our learning lab opportunities to the next level allowing students to develop competence and confidence in a safe environment.

In October 2011, we officially welcomed the CoxHealth Education Center into the college. The Education Center will provide strategic, basic life support programs and continuing education for CoxHealth and the community. Again, this closes the loop of "lifelong learning" for the college. With the addition of the Education Center, Cox College will now provide a continuum of education from entry level through professional development and continuing education.

Spring is an exciting time of year as the Ozarks are once again filled with birds chirping and flowers blooming. Cox College is an exciting place to be where we strive to meet the educational needs of students and the health care community. I hope that you will stop by to visit so you, too, can experience the "spring" in the air at Cox College.

Road Trip! Call now for reservations!

Join Cox College on Saturday, April 21st as we travel to Bentonville, Arkansas to visit Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art – the first major institution in 50 years dedicated to the vast spectrum of American art. \$65 includes motor coach, lunch at the museum and a special gift upon return to Springfield. Departure at 9 a.m. and return at 6 p.m. Seating is limited. To make your reservation, call Todd Rutledge at 417/269-3873 or e-mail Todd.Rutledge@coxcollege.edu.

Cox College Welcomes New

Vice President for Academic Affairs

Since arriving in January, Cox College's new Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Dennis Edwards, has been adjusting to the college and states he's finding a high degree of commitment and excellence as he meets people and hears their perspectives on Cox College. Edwards completed his Bachelor's Degree at Southern Illinois University in Social Welfare and has earned two Master's Degrees, one in Social Work and the second in Recreation

Therapy. His Ph.D is from the University of Illinois.

Dennis and his wife Teresa live in Sparta on a 102-year-old farm; they like to garden and develop alternative energy projects. Presently, Dennis is turning a classic 1971 Volkswagen Bug into an electric car, developing solar energy/wind power and using sustainable organic agriculture.

We welcome Dr. Edwards to the Cox College family.



Dr. Dennis Edwards



David Schoolfield, VPSS

Hi, and welcome to another addition of Areté. These are exciting times at the college. The spring semester is off to a record start. The spring enrollment of 839 students and 8,777 semester hours is an all-time college/spring semester record. Congratulations to everyone for their hard work and cooperation to make this a record-setting semester. This record is a great example of excellent teamwork and shows what the college is capable of.

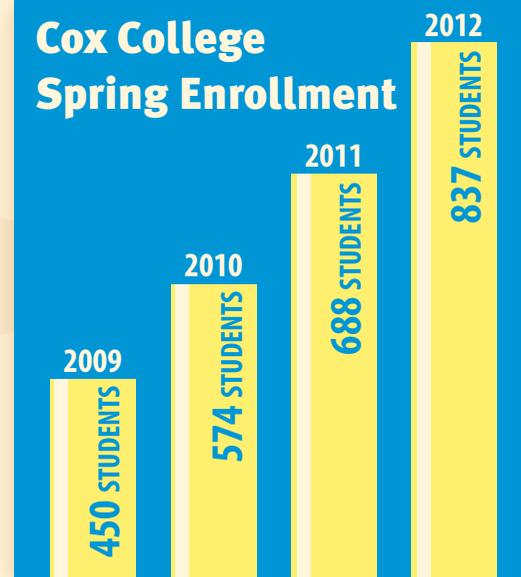
The previous enrollment management area is now called the Division of Student Services, and this division is made up of admissions, records &

registration, financial aid, alumni and marketing, general education, student services and, a new position, RN-BSN advisor. This area is lead by the Vice President for Student Services.

The Division of Student Services has two new employees since our last newsletter; Jim Freeman, general education advisor, and Karla Parker, financial aid loan counselor. These two individuals bring a wealth of experience to these two areas and are great team players.

We will be hosting a college-wide Open House on Saturday, May 5, 2012. This event gives the greater Springfield area an opportunity to visit with the administration, faculty, staff and current students of the college and to explore all of the college's offerings. This is a great recruitment event, but you are the best marketing and recruitment tool available for Cox College, and we thank you for that!

Cox College Spring Enrollment



Cox College introduces the new **EDUCATION CENTER**

The CoxHealth education department, previously named Educational Services, experienced significant changes this past year in an effort to align to the system's mission and overall reorganization. After conducting an extensive needs assessment, the system determined it would benefit the learner by moving education closest to where the staff works. For example, unit-based education was developed for Nursing and Leadership, Onboarding, Digital Media, and Information Systems were redistributed to various departments throughout the organization. The Education Center evolved from this transition and was moved to Cox College to further enhance the college offerings, making it a comprehensive destination for health care education.

The Education Center focuses on strategic enterprise-wide education for CoxHealth employees, professional advancement, for example offering continuing education credits for healthcare workers and nursing certification opportunities, life support training, and general health care courses for employees and the community. Future service expansion includes introducing simulation into the health system for staff and physicians. Simulation provides a safe learning environment for health care professionals and assists in their pursuit of re-licensure and certification, competency maintenance, and provides a focus on patient safety. The Education Center team has dedicated and talented educators as well as administrative assistants to best serve our customers.

Meet The Leaders



Jennifer Posey, EdD
Dean, CoxHealth Education Center

Dr. Posey has Bachelor's and Master's of Science degrees in Education and achieved her doctorate in Human Resource Development: Occupational and Adult Education. She has more than 18 years experience dedicated to education and learning. Jennifer is an active member of the National Institute for HealthCare Leadership and serves as a Senior Examiner and Team Lead on the Board of Examiners for the Excellence in Missouri Foundation. Dean Posey values lifelong learning and is committed to continual process and performance improvement through her work in learning, development, innovation and knowledge management.

Prior to serving in the Dean role, she has filled several other roles at CoxHealth: Director of Educational Services, Information Systems Educator, HealthStream Administrator, and Senior Pharmacy Technician.



Michelle Jacobs, MBA, BSN
Professional Advancement Director

Mrs. Jacobs is a pediatric-certified registered nurse, who received her nursing diploma from Burge School of Nursing. She has since completed a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing and a Master's of Business Administration. Her professional experience includes more than thirteen years working with women and children in the hospital and community settings. Most recently, Michelle served as a CME/CE Coordinator for CoxHealth.

Michelle is a member of the American Nurses Association and Missouri Nurses Association (MONA). She frequently reviews continuing education applications for MONA and has been an invited speaker the last two years during the annual Approved Provider conference. Michelle is actively involved in the community as a March of Dimes – Ozark Chapter Board Member and is a March of Dimes grant reviewer at the state level.



Beth Keith, MS, CHES
Healthcare Education & Outreach Director

Mrs. Keith graduated with a Bachelor's of Science in Health Sciences and achieved a Master's of Science in Health Promotion & Wellness Management. Her new role is leading the efforts to assist employees and the community with their community health education needs. She holds national certification as a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) from the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing. Most recently, Beth served as Community Education Coordinator.

Beth leads the American Heart Association Training Center as coordinator, managing life-support programs for CoxHealth and most of SW Missouri. Mrs. Keith has served as chairperson for the MO State Emergency Cardiovascular Care Committee and Breathe Easy Springfield and One Air Alliance.

She has received recognition in her field with awards: Outstanding Volunteer in the area of Cancer Control by the American Cancer Society (2001) and named Missouri AHA Training Center Coordinator of the Year (2004-2005). She was further commended for her outstanding leadership with a Springfield Business Journal 40 Under 40 recognition.



Joey Sly, RN, BSN
Operations Manager

Ms. Sly graduated from Burge School of Nursing and also achieved her Bachelor's in Science in Nursing. Joey has worked for CoxHealth for 42 years and is committed to the mission of the system.

Prior to serving in her current role, she has filled these other roles at CoxHealth: Assistant Director of Educational Services, Patient Education Coordinator, Telemetry Educator, Manager of ICU, and CCU Staff Nurse.

We are pleased to be a part of Cox College and look forward to serving your health care educational needs.

Life Support

As a Certified Training Center through the American Heart Association, one focus of the Education Center is life support programs. Recently, Beth Keith and Amber Clark, Enterprise Educator, were invited to conduct BLS skills checks for students involved in SkillsUSA. The SkillsUSA program is known nationally, and involvement helps students build and reinforce self-confidence,

positive attitudes toward work, and communication skills. In 1998-99, the CoxHealth Training Center was awarded the Heartsaver Achievement Award for training over 10,000 people that year and continues to serve about the same number of people annually today. Amber Clark was awarded BLS instructor of the year for task force II in 2004-05. The reputation of the center is due largely in part to this team's commitment to the program's integrity.

Life Support And Other Health Care Education Course Offerings

The Education Center is also pleased to provide a wide variety of healthcare course offerings to CoxHealth's workforce as well as healthcare workers within the community. Currently, the available courses are:

BLS

- BLS for Healthcare Provider
- BLS for Healthcare Provider Skills Check
- BLS Instructor Course
- BLS Instructor Renewal Course
- CPR for Family and Friends
- Heartsaver CPR/AED
- Heartsaver CPR/AED Skills Check
- Heartsaver First Aid
- Heartsaver First Aid with CPR/AED
- Heartsaver First Aid Skills Check
- Heartsaver First Aid with CPR/AED Skills Check

ACLS

- ACLS Experienced Provider
- ACLS Instructor Course
- ACLS Instructor Renewal Course
- ACLS Provider
- ACLS Provider Update Course
- ACLS Rhythms and Treatments
- ACLS Skills Checks

PALS

- PALS Instructor Course
- PALS Instructor Update Course
- PALS Provider Course
- PALS Provider Update Course
- Pediatric Emergency Assessment, Recognition, and Stabilization (PEARS) Course

Other

- Neonatal Courses
- AAP/AHA Neonatal Resuscitation Provider Course (NRP)
- AWHONN Advanced Fetal Monitoring – Advanced and Intermediate courses available
- S.T.A.B.L.E. Provider and Renewal Courses
- Cardiac Dysrhythmia and Rhythm Interpretation

Contact Us

For detailed information or to register for the courses listed, visit the "Schools and Education" page at www.coxhealth.com. You may also contact us by phone: 417-269-4117 or via e-mail: educationcenter@coxcollege.edu.

Conferences

Conferences scheduled for Spring 2012

Fourth Annual Coughing, Sneezing and Wheezing: *A Pediatric Asthma Conference*

Saturday, April 21, 2012

Springfield Public Schools, in conjunction with Jordan Valley Community Health Center, CoxHealth and St. John's Children's Hospital is pleased to present a day of practical childhood asthma education. Various aspects of the disease will be discussed to assist health care providers develop strategies in providing appropriate care and management, improving overall clinical care and outcomes of children with asthma.

This conference is designed for physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, nurses, respiratory therapists and all other health care professionals responsible for childhood asthma management.

26th Annual Geriatrics Conference: *Pearls of Geriatric Care*

Friday and Saturday, April 27 and 28, 2012

With the increasing age of our geriatric patients, it is becoming even more challenging to the health care provider to give appropriate care to this increasingly complex population of health care consumers. CoxHealth is committed to continually improve patient

outcomes and has assembled a group of nationally renowned experts in the field of geriatrics to present the most current evidence based information available to treat our geriatric population.

Come celebrate more than a quarter century of quality education. This two-day conference is designed to improve the quality of life for our geriatric population by broadening the knowledge of those who care for them. The target audience for this activity includes physicians, residents, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, nurses, nursing home administrators, social workers, case managers, occupational and physical therapists and all others caring for the geriatric patient. A wide range of topics will be discussed to enhance the care of aging patients.

Decisions in Trauma

Friday, May 18, 2012

Join us for the 22nd Annual Decisions in Trauma Conference to be held at Evangel University. This multidisciplinary conference is designed for medical professionals caring for the trauma patient from impact to recovery. The topics for this year's conference include: pediatric trauma care, acute care of traumatic pain, penetrating neck trauma, spinal cord trauma, violence and safety in the hospital setting, venomous bites, shaken baby, and orthopedic trauma. This conference will offer educational credit for physicians, nurses, EMTs, radiologic technologists, respiratory therapists and hospital chaplains.

Conference Registration

For complete information or to register for these or other conferences, visit www.coxhealth.com/conferences.

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Remembering Don Wessel

On Monday, February 6, 2012, Don Wessel passed away. Don served as a member of the Cox College Board of Trustees beginning in 1995. "Don was a dedicated board member for 17 years. He sincerely cared about the quality of education provided at Cox College, and his absence will be greatly felt," Dr. Robin Vogt, Chairman of Board.

Don Wessel was born on December 5, 1925, in Cincinnati, OH, and passed away on February 6, 2012 in Springfield, MO. He graduated from the University of Cincinnati with a BS and Master's in political science. While at UC, he met a lovely woman named Betty Cooper, who became his wife. Don enrolled in law school and went to work for one of Cincinnati's largest firms, Proctor and Gamble. While at P&G, he was offered a chance to work for more money selling cars. The extra money was nice, but being offered a demonstrator clinched the deal, since Don had loved cars since his youth. What started as a temporary job became a lifelong career and passion.

After working at Superior Chevrolet in Cincinnati for 10 years, Don wanted his own dealership, and after some searching, bought a Buick dealership in Tulsa, OK. He later bought a Mercedes-Benz/Volvo dealership in Tulsa but wanted to return to his roots with domestic cars. A phone call from his best friend led to Don coming to Springfield to open Don Wessel Oldsmobile in 1966. He later added the Honda franchise in 1973, when Honda was known more for motorcycles than automobiles.

Don was very active in the community and was named Springfieldian of the Year in 1987. He served on many boards, including those of the Salvation Army, Cox College, Missouri Auto Dealers Association, National Auto Dealers Association, Children's Miracle Network, Easter Seals, Forest Institute, Springfield Trust Company and numerous banks. He was a founding board member of Ozarks Technical Community College. Don was also a board member, underwriter and former president of Juanita K. Hammons Hall for the Performing Arts and the Springfield Symphony. He also served his country in WWII.

Don was preceded in death by his wife Betty and is survived by his son Jon and partner Debbie Litteken, daughter Ann Madsen and husband Randy, sister Betty, grandsons Michael, Scott and Kevin, granddaughters Jessica and Lindsey, and the second love of his life, Rosie Siman.

Obituary courtesy of the Springfield News-Leader

In Memoriam of our Alumni

Melba Newton
Class of 1938

Fern Stotts Chatterton
Class of 1946

Ruth McWade
Class of 1948

Betty McGuire
Class of 1959

Jeannie Fuller
Class of 1990

Tom Lindgren
Class of 2009

On January 11, 2012, Cox College lost a vibrant member of its volunteer RN tutoring program. Shawnda Van Winkle, RN, who had tutored for the college since Spring 2010, passed away in her sleep. Shawnda worked primarily with ASN students but also worked with BSN students, as well as recent graduates who needed



help studying for their NCLEX-RN exam. Shawnda's dream of becoming a nurse began at a very early age. She was inspired by her aunt, Mary, who was a nurse. At the age of 18, Shawnda moved from Anderson, MO, to California to live with family while pursuing her education. She initially obtained her LVN certificate and then graduated from Saddleback College in Mission Viejo, CA, as a registered nurse.

Although she was diagnosed with pulmonary problems while in nursing school and was often on a ventilator, she did not let her illness prevent her from continuing to pursue her education. When a required nursing exam occurred while she was hospitalized, she felt she needed to leave her hospital bed to take the exam, even though she'd been on a ventilator during her hospitalization. Shawnda was able to talk her physician into allowing her to go to the college long enough to take the exam and then return to her hospital bed that day. After being readmitted to the hospital, she was later again placed on a ventilator.

After receiving her RN licensure, Shawnda worked from 2005-2009 as a staff mentor and tutor by holding study and review sessions for students in theory application of advanced Med/Surg-ER/ICU rotations. She also worked in Critical Care (ER/ICU) departments from the age of 20 until the age of 32. She hoped to continue her own studies and planned to pursue getting her BSN degree from Vanderbilt University, but her health did not permit.

She returned to Springfield, MO, to live and began working as a volunteer RN tutor for Cox College in January 2010. Her review sessions were very helpful and popular with the students, and Shawnda's desire was to help every student who had a need. She worked with some students face-to-face and other students by e-mail or over the phone as schedules permitted. Her health continued to be fragile although she rarely expressed to anyone how serious her condition was. In early January 2012, she planned to take a short break from tutoring to have surgery. She died January 11, 2012, at the age of 34.

Shawnda was an accomplished nurse, artist, sculptor, singer, writer and actress. She was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, as well as a Critical Care Nurses association member and a member of the Springfield Art Museum. Her family has asked that any memorial contributions be made to the Cox College nursing scholarship fund on her behalf. She will be very much missed.

VOLUNTEER TUTORS NEEDED

The Academic Resource Center at Cox College is looking for volunteer tutors for our nursing and health sciences programs. We are particularly looking for those who have graduated from approved programs of study and have achieved licensure, certification, and/or a degree in their field of study. While we are in need of upper-level tutors, we also need tutors for beginning nursing and health sciences courses. You can tutor for as few or as many hours as you want! In some cases, we may be able to pay for tutoring services.

Please contact the ARC by phone at 269-3225 or e-mail at studentservices@coxcollege.edu.
We hope to hear from you!

A SPIRIT OF GIVING

Burge/Cox College alumni have had a long-standing history of valuing their past and supporting the future of nursing. In this tradition, the Burge/Cox Alumni Chapter Board met in 2011 to distribute a portion of alumni funds from the Burge Alumni Endowment Fund to support outstanding students in their pursuit of their nursing degree. The board is comprised of alums Vickie Donnell, Jean White, Phyllis Fennell, Linda Brown and Barbara Pittman representing a cross section of graduating years. The group reviewed

applications from students submitting in the annual scholarship process, seeking those with outstanding aptitude for the profession and the desire to bring the values of compassion, respect and integrity to every patient in the delivery of care. The board selected Alyssa Simpson, Paige Puryear and Alyssa Grabon as the recipients of \$5,000 scholarships for the Fall 2011 and Spring 2012 year. Congratulations to these outstanding students on their scholarship awards.



Lisa Alexander
CoxHealth Foundation President

Do you know what real friendship looks like? I saw it this fall at the reunion of the class of 1961. Alum Jennie “Tish” Coppinger contacted me earlier in the year to let me know her class would be meeting at the college to talk about old times, take a tour and have some fun! When I arrived for the luncheon, they were deep in conversation about instructors, one nurse nursing floors, meds that aren’t around any more, first jobs, sneaking out of the dorms and Miss Mary Ruth; those stories could fill a few volumes! The bottom line—this group shared some life experiences that will bond them forever. The “love” in the room was apparent, and I felt fortunate to be there to witness and to learn more about the college’s history and those who formed it.

Near the end of the luncheon, the group shared with me that they wanted to add to their legacy. Collectively, they had decided to start a scholarship fund to help the next generation find the kind of rewards each of them had

experienced in their nursing careers. They told me they hoped family members would send gifts to it instead of presents to them or use it to honor special people or times in their own lives; however it grows, they were united in their desire to impact another person’s ability to take this journey into nursing. I often say that philanthropy is a culture that succeeds on leadership—these ladies are leading the way in showing today’s students that giving back is paying forward.

Thank you to Anita Ashby, Karen Atkins, Georgia Bergman, Jennie Coppinger, Marguerite Ellis, Evelyn Fullerton, Anita Gooding, Donna Jordan, Rebecca Kerr, Maxine Klein, Evelyn Landes, Marlene Langston, Mary Ellen Lively, Marie Mott, Joanna Oganessian, Dorothy Phillips, Margaret Wann and Virginia Wood for giving Cox College its newest scholarship fund and for giving me the opportunity to see first hand why our alumni are the reason Cox College is far more than just a college; it’s family.



Class of
'61



Thank you from scholarship recipients.

I am in the BSN-Accelerated program so I am completing a BSN in 16 months, after having previously completed a BS degree in Biology. Upon starting the program, I realized that I would not be able to receive enough loans to cover my tuition. I was planning on not working during this program due to the heavy workload but decided to get a job to start earning money to pay my tuition. I quickly realized that the one job was not going to allow me to earn the tuition money in time for the deadline, so I picked up a second job. Between working at Cox and waitressing on the weekends, I thought I could save up enough to pay my tuition. Then one day, I received a most unexpected surprise in my mailbox. I got a letter stating that I had received a Cox Alumni scholarship, in an amount that covered all of the tuition I was working hard to pay.

I immediately felt an enormous weight lifted off of me and in tears, called my mom to share the amazing news. Before this scholarship, I was working 20-25 hours every week on my days off from school, and struggling to figure out how to pay my tuition bill but still keep up with my living expenses and food. Now I am working far less hours and can spend more time focusing on school and gaining the skills and knowledge needed to perform my best as a nurse. I am almost to graduation, and without this scholarship, I'm not sure I would have been able to stay in this program.

Thank you,
Paige Puryear

I am incredibly thankful for the Alumni Scholarship at Cox College! My dream of becoming an RN is something I have wanted since I was a little girl. While I believe education and knowledge are important factors in becoming a nurse, I also believe it involves compassion, leadership and the desire in learning to become a great nurse! Nursing is a physical and mental challenge that comes with heartache, joy and being part of a team that strives for the common goal—the well being of the patient. I believe a good nurse must be able to care for a patient as a “whole,” emotionally,

physically, and spiritually; these features of nursing are something I will work very hard to achieve! I've worked very hard in school and have had great achievements, and I plan to do the same in nursing school here at Cox College! With that being said, I cannot thank you enough for this scholarship that will allow me to pursue my hopes and dreams of becoming the best nurse!

Thank you,
Alyssa G. Simpson

As a recipient of the Alumni Scholarship from Cox College, I would love to thank you so very much for your kind donation! As soon as I received the letter informing me that I was a recipient, I was completely overwhelmed with gratitude. I have spent a year at Cox now, and I have learned so much here! I am so thankful that your assistance has enabled me to continue my education. Nursing is a profession that “runs in the family” for me; my grandmother was a nurse in the operating room for many years before accepting positions with the State of Michigan and as part of administration in local hospitals. She is now retired, but her skills and compassion still make a difference in the lives of so many people. My mother is also a well-respected nurse in her hospital, and I have heard many stories about the excellence she portrays in her profession and the difference she makes in the lives of patients and her co-workers.

the elderly population and/or oncology patients; there are many routes I can go about this, whether it is home care, working in a nursing home, or working in a hospital, but I will be happy to work in any of these areas because I love that part of the population.

I want you to know that your donation does not go unappreciated. I am from a family of 9—my mother works hard to support my father, me, my triplet and twin brothers, and my sister while my father stays home with my younger siblings. Each year as I prepare finances and loans for school, we just pray that I will receive scholarships and other assistance. Your donation will help me pay for books and my tuition and is truly an answer to those prayers. It has already made an incredible difference in my life, enabling me to cancel private loans and avoid student debt. I am a hard-working student, and I currently hold a 3.75 grade point average after 3.5 years of school, so I believe that you have made an investment into the bright future of nursing!

Again, thank you very much for your generous donation. It is going to be a great school year!

Sincerely,
Alyssa Grabon

These two women inspire me so much as I enter into the nursing profession. They motivate me to study and work in the manner of excellence that they have demonstrated. I plan on receiving my BSN from Cox College. I will spend time gaining experience as I prepare to advance my education and earn a Master's degree. I am considering being a Nurse Practitioner or Nurse Educator, although I have also been told that I am smart enough to become a CRNA, so that is an option I am also considering. I would love to work with

That little card in the mail...

Remember that little card you received in the mail last June? It was an invitation to help another student walk the stage to graduation. It came from the CoxHealth Foundation on behalf of Cox College. Why is the CoxHealth Foundation sending you this card? Good question! The Foundation is CoxHealth's fundraising arm and is managing all charitable programs within the CoxHealth system including Cox College. Each year, the Foundation asks the Cox College administration, faculty and students—what would have the greatest impact on the student body moving forward? The answer annually has been more scholarships.

So back to the card. Last year, over three thousand cards were sent to alumni, and 17 responded for a total of \$905 which will be awarded in the fall. Thank you to our donors! At its peak in 2003, the

little card had 706 responses for a total of \$49,593 in scholarship funds. Given the economy in the past few years, it's understandable that donations are down. Our question is—in what way do alumni want to support today's student body? Please let us know your thoughts on an annual appeal—yes, we will only ask once—by e-mailing your comments to lisa.alexander@coxhealth.com. Would an electronic appeal better suit your needs? Is there a better time of the year for an annual appeal than the summer? Are you interested in doing facility, technology or some other form of support? We appreciate all our alumni do as ambassadors, donors and members of one of the most outstanding group of alumni in the nursing profession. Your input is important to us as we try and address current needs and alumni support.

Dr. Tricia Wagner, Dean



Department of Nursing

At Cox College, our path has been created by some very significant people and events along the way. We have transitioned through this with both ease and difficulty, but that speaks to our rich history. My mom always told me, “Although the legacy that you have behind you is important, it is most important to focus on

the path you have yet to travel.” For those of us who are visual learners, think of it this way—that’s why our windshield is bigger than our rearview mirror!

The view from our windshield here at Cox College shows a great horizon. We are observing that health is an ever-changing topic for our students as they interact with patients. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the need for registered nurses (RNs) is projected to continue to increase dramatically through the year 2016. RNs are increasingly expected to enhance their educational preparation in today’s evolving health care industry. The Institute of Medicine is recommending in their report, “The Future of Nursing: Leading Change Advancing Health,” that 80% of RNs have a Bachelor’s of Science in Nursing by the year 2020. With the commitment of support regarding ongoing professional development, we have started to see an increased number of practicing nurses returning to pursue their goal of continued education. This is evidenced by a 49% increase in students in our RN-BSN completion program from Spring 2011 to Spring 2012.

With this growth and opportunities for continued growth, priorities for the nursing department include

strong communication amongst each other, across our programs, and throughout the college. Seeking excellence through evidence based practice has become the foundation for decisions that impact the future. Creating an infrastructure within the department is important to support the growing number of students and maintaining ratios in the clinical setting, thus the addition of new faculty and support personnel. This spring we added three full-time faculty members. Our team currently includes 41 full-time, one part-time and a group of adjunct faculty. Everyone together makes a difference for our students in the classroom and in the clinical settings. Our faculty support specialist, Nikki Miller-Summers, assists the faculty with their technology and day-to-day needs.

We are fortunate to have relationships with individuals and agencies that support the goal of excellence in the education of health care professionals. The opportunities that our students have in the community clinical sites are critical to facilitate and design the success of nursing in the future. With 502 nursing students at varying levels, any opportunity to partner with professionals in our organization and across the community will only further develop our efforts to improve the health of the community through our practice. Our clinical outreach coordinator, Donna Cardwell, is a liaison for our students seeking a clinical site, as well as for our preceptors and agencies.

As you can see, I am very excited about Cox College and leading the nursing department! Living the mission and creating a team with administration, faculty, staff and students can impact in the lives of others on a daily basis, and I see this happening everyday here. The windshield appears to have the road of success continuing for miles in front of us.

Wilma Bunch, Dean



Department of Information Services

Library Services has changed tremendously during the last 20 years that I have been Library Director here at Cox. The days of flipping through pages of paper indexes and looking on the shelves for books and journals for that just-perfect article has evolved now into e-books, journals, and electronic literature databases with integrated links to the full-text articles – information at your fingertips immediately. Yes, we do still have books and journals, but technology has certainly changed the library world and how we operate.

Technology Services at the college has obviously evolved and strives to remain competitive in the academic arena. Do you remember how you lived without the

Department of Health Sciences

Greetings from the health sciences department! It is good to reconnect with you again.

We continue to grow in our department which is always exciting. Currently, we are in the process of developing a Bachelor's of Science degree in Diagnostic Imaging program (BSDI) in that we anticipate implementing by either Fall 2012 or Spring 2013. This program will be the first Bachelor's degree within the health sciences department, and we expect a great response for filling the seats in this new program.

Our numbers continue to climb in all programs. We now have 24 students in various stages of our Medical Assisting associate program. The students have really enjoyed getting more involved with health fairs and clinics which has been a wonderful marketing tool for us. This program continues to grow with plans to expand in a collaboration effort with Drury University at their Cabool campus.

In May, we will graduate our first Cox College class of Radiography Technicians. This program continues to be strong, and interviews are being conducted for fall. The program had more than 100 applications for its 22 openings.

Medical Billing and Coding is going strong with more than 70 students enrolled. Also, there are 18 students graduating in May with five of them having jobs BEFORE graduation – exceptional! Program Director Deborah Jochems has been working tirelessly on the development of a training program for existing coders for the new ICD-10 implementation to begin in Spring 2013. This will provide extensive training for current coders and bring them up-to-date on the new

processes that will be in place by next year.

The Dietetic Internship Program is thriving, drawing applicants from all over the nation. This program uses cutting-edge education for the dieticians, and thus, many students have been hired by our own organization, CoxHealth.

Lastly, the transcription program change of curriculum that I spoke of in our last newsletter has been implemented, and we have 11 students enrolled in that program. This new curriculum educates our students on voice recognition and editing. This allows them to compete in the ever-changing environment of transcription.

In May, we will graduate a total of 80 students from the various health sciences programs at Cox College. This is the most we have ever graduated at one time in our department. Part of that success, I believe, is because of the committed instructors/professors who work tirelessly for the success of our students each and every day. Thanks to all of you for being a part of Cox College. I hope your lives are better because of your experience and education while here.



Sonya Hayter, Dean



I expect to pass through life but once. If therefore, there be any kindness I can show, or any good thing I can do to any fellow being, let me do it now, and not defer or neglect it, as I shall not pass this way again. ~William Penn

Internet as part of every aspect of your life? On the other hand, have you visited the “Cloud” or own the newest Smartphone and iPad recently released? It is amazing how quickly technology has progressed and at what expense. So in our endeavors to capitalize on our resources, it seemed only natural to combine library, technology, computing, multi-media and e-learning services into the Department of Information Services in October 2011. This strategic move allows for more efficient use of the informational resources available to

support the Student First core value: We believe in providing a learning environment that promotes student inspiration, support and academic achievement.

This is an exciting time and I look forward to working with these two groups of amazing individuals. I believe this will provide the opportunity to bring innovative thinking and constructive reasoning to individuals that understand the value and the intrinsic nature of technology. Together we can make information accessible and in a format that is user-friendly and current for our students.

Baldrige Journey

Cox College began the Baldrige journey in 2010 with an umbrella goal to “assess and measure excellence across the college using the Baldrige framework.” We are now in our second year of the process, and it is exciting to see the continuous improvement model become the norm.

In Fall 2010, a group of representatives which included faculty, staff, students and administrators from the college held a retreat and evaluated the processes at the college using the Baldrige Education Criteria for Performance Excellence. The outcome was the unanimous decision to move forward in application. College-wide convocations from that point included an educational

component regarding the Baldrige journey and time allocated for data collection and feedback. The team wanted to make sure that everyone in the college understood the process, had an opportunity to provide input/feedback, and “bought into” the journey.

The Baldrige Steering Committee wrote and submitted an application for the Missouri Quality Award (MQA) to the Missouri

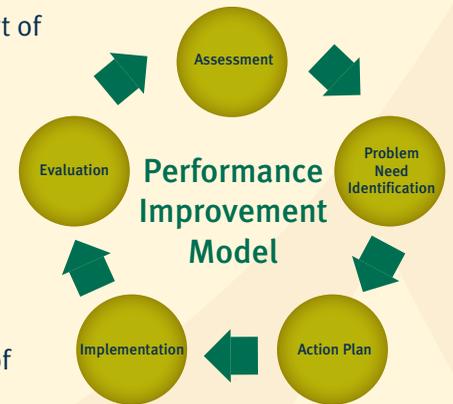
Foundation for Excellence in Spring 2011. Writing the application helped the team focus on assessing our strengths and opportunities for learning/growth. The goal of submitting the application was to put our processes and data on paper, not only for our eyes, but also to get objective feedback and suggestions from the MQA examiners.

The feedback we received affirmed what we believed we were doing well, pointed out strengths that we had taken for granted, and

helped the team direct our improvement efforts. The team is currently in the process of writing a 2012 MQA application for continued feedback on the process changes we have implemented.

Recently, the team decided that changing the group name to the Performance Management Team would reflect that this is a permanent part of the way we do business at the college and not just a flavor of the week. Some of the outcomes of the Baldrige journey include: the identification of a Performance Improvement Model (PIM) that permeates all areas of the college, an increased emphasis on aligning processes rather than having silos within the college, and looking at what, how and where we collect data for decision making. Using the tools for continuous improvement, we have instituted a Lean Team to look at the process students follow from the time they express interest in the college until they are enrolled in a program. The goal is to identify any gaps or overlaps and to make sure that every step of the process adds value for the students.

This is an exciting journey for the college. Our mission states that we are “committed to excellence” and, using the Baldrige framework, we are bringing that piece of our mission to life for everyone at the college.



SPRING Open House

Save the date. Our Spring Open House is going to be Saturday, May 5th from 11:00 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Also join us for Graduation on Friday, May 11th at 1:00 p.m. in the O'Reilly Family Event Center on the campus of Drury University. This is the largest graduating class in our history with 178 potential graduates!

Meet our **New Faculty**

Shannon Ackermann

Shannon Ackermann is an alumnus of Burge School of Nursing. She received her Bachelor's of Science in Nursing from Southwest Baptist University and is currently working on her Master's of Science in Nursing degree from Cox College. She comes to Cox College from Oxford Health Care where she served in many nursing capacities and has been teaching in the Associate of Science in Nursing program as adjunct faculty. Shannon will teach in both the ASN and BSN programs.

Julianna Jacomb

Julianna Jacomb came to Cox College in Fall 2011 as an Administrative Assistant, just in time for the start of the semester. Prior to joining the Cox College team, she studied at the University of Missouri in Columbia where she received her Bachelor's of Science in Health Science with a minor in Psychology and a focus on Multi-Cultural studies. Although she has only lived in Springfield since the fall, it is beginning to feel like home, though she will always be a Tiger at heart.

Karla Parker

Karla Parker joins Cox College as a Financial Aid Counselor from Evangel University. Prior to education, she worked in banking in the area of customer service. Karla and her husband Terry reside in Rogersville with their chihuahua, Poncho, who rules the house!

Susie Robertson

Susie Robertson joins the Cox College faculty from Springfield Public Schools where she worked as a school nurse providing health services and education. Susie received her Associate of Science in Nursing from St. John's School of Nursing at SBU. She continued her education at Missouri State University where she received her Bachelor's of Science in Nursing and is currently working toward her Master's of Science in Nursing. Susie will be teaching in the Bachelor's of Science in Nursing program.

Jim Freeman

Jim Freeman joined Cox College as the General Studies Education Specialist. Prior to becoming a member of the Cox College team, Jim worked as a Director at a facility for troubled youth. He earned his Master's of Leadership degree at Evangel University. Jim and his wife have called Branson home for the past twenty-six years. They have two boys in college: Zac is working on his MBA, and Caleb is finishing his bachelor's degree in business.

Tad Morris

Tad Morris comes to us from CoxHealth where he worked as both a Radiologic and CT Technologist. Tad has recently been teaching courses in Computed Tomography as adjunct faculty with the college. He is a graduate of CoxHealth School of Radiologic Technology, CoxHealth School of Computed Tomography and Missouri State University where he received his Bachelor's of Science in Radiography. Tad will be teaching across both the Radiography and the specialty programs.

Joelene Powell

Joelene Powell is the Clinical Coordinator for the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program. She comes to Cox College from CoxHealth where she worked as a Registered Ultrasonographer. She has worked as adjunct faculty teaching in the Diagnostic Medical Sonography programs. She received her Associate of Science in Radiologic Technology from North Arkansas College, her Bachelor's of Science in Health Services from Drury University and is an alumnus of the CoxHealth School of Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Ultrasound.

Betty Stogsdill

Betty Stogsdill will be teaching in the Associate of Science in Nursing program. She comes to Cox College from Lakeland Behavioral Health where she worked with pediatric patients. She has been serving as adjunct faculty with the college working with third semester ASN students in the clinical setting. Betty is a graduate of Cox College, receiving her Bachelor's of Science in Nursing and is currently pursuing her Master's of Science in Nursing degree.

Alumni WEEKEND

**SATURDAY,
SEPT. 14TH & 15TH**

Save the date:

The Alumni Association is pleased to announce that the Annual Alumni Weekend will be held this September 14th & 15th. Don't miss this opportunity to reconnect with alumni and other friends of the college.

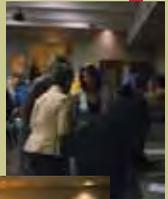
Early registration and info is available by contacting Todd Rutledge at
Todd.Rutledge@coxcollege.edu.

WELCOME
BACK

Alumni

COX COLLEGE
CoxHealth

Class of 1981



Alumni Spotlight



Greg is a graduate of the 1988 class of Burge School of Nursing. He continued his education at Missouri State University, Missouri University of Science and Technology and the University of Missouri. He has been a faculty member of the University of Missouri, Sinclair School of Nursing since 2005.

On October 15, 2011, Dr. Gregory L. Alexander was inducted as a Fellow into the American Academy of Nursing in Washington, DC on Capitol Hill. The American Academy of Nursing's approximately 1,800 Fellows are nursing leaders in education, management, practice and research. They include: association executives; university presidents, chancellors and deans; state and federal political appointees; hospital chief executives and vice presidents for nursing; nurse consultants; and researchers and entrepreneurs.

Invitation to Fellowship is more than recognition of one's accomplishments within the nursing profession. Academy Fellows also have a responsibility to contribute their time and energies to the Academy and to engage with other health care leaders outside the Academy in transforming America's health care system by:

- Enhancing the quality of health and nursing care;
- Promoting healthy aging and human development across the life continuum;
- Reducing health disparities and inequalities;
- Shaping healthy behaviors and environments;
- Integrating mental and physical health care; and
- Strengthening the nursing and health care delivery system, nationally and internationally.

Cox College offers heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to Dr. Alexander.

Todd Rutledge, Director of Marketing



As I approach the completion of my first year serving as the director of marketing and alumni here at Cox College, I'm in constant awe of the generosity and spirit of our alumni. It is obvious that

Burge/Cox College holds a special place in your heart. This has been demonstrated in attendance and participation in alumni events such as the block party, the annual Burge picnic dinner and some class reunions held here on campus. Please mark your calendar for our next alumni weekend on September 14/15. Also, we would love to assist you in organizing your class reunion.

The ability to connect with our alumni directly is most successful for two reasons. First, we are able

to update the association's database allowing us to do a better job of keeping in touch with those who want to continue their connection to Cox College. Second, we are able to raise additional revenue from our wonderfully generous alumni to benefit new generations of students through future scholarships. A special thank you to all who responded to our annual appeal. Your support will ensure that Cox College changes the lives of a whole new generation of students.

As the college's enrollment breaks records each year, the alumni association and its membership continue to grow as well. We want to ensure that we can stay connected to the thousands of past students whose lives were changed here at Cox College... just as yours was. Thank you for being a part of Cox College's history, as well as its future.

If I can serve you better, please let me know. You can reach me at 417/269-3873 or at Todd.Rutledge@coxcollege.edu.

A Special Thanks to an alumna and



Safe Patient Handling is a call to increase safety for caregivers and patients alike. Nurses leave the profession at a rate of 12% per year (Nelson and Baptiste, 2004) due to injury. The American Nurses Association has promoted a Safe Patient Handling program called "Handle with Care" since 2003 to focus on decreasing nursing injuries in the workplace. In 2011, CoxHealth partnered with Prism Medical, of St. Louis, to promote a safer workplace for all health care workers by installing a vast system of ceiling lifts and companion floor lifts. Prism

Medical commits to enhancing the health care community of our clients by providing the Safe Patient Handling equipment for neighboring nursing schools. This introduction of lifting equipment is an effort to prepare health care students for a new way to move patients safely prior to their clinical experience. The donation of a ceiling lift and companion slings to the Nursing Resource Center at Cox College was facilitated by Esther (Herzog) Murray (Burge class of '78) and Jeremy Besselko of Prism Medical.



diplomatrans.com



The Cox College bookstore is pleased to announce the addition of Cox College Alumni logo apparel and these great frames for your certificate or diploma. These items will be available throughout the year.



COX COLLEGE
CoxHealth

1423 N. Jefferson Ave.
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Prété

Note to Alumni

We want to hear from you! Send any information on your career advancements, marriages, new births, deaths...anything you would like to share with your fellow alumni. This is your Alumni Association, and we are hoping you will contribute your suggestions for making it stronger.

To participate or share any comments, e-mail us at alumni@coxcollege.edu or provide your information on the envelope in the newsletter.

