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2025
REUNION
CELEBRATION

 College of Nursing
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

CAREER

Pat Hemingway Hall began her career as a critical care nurse at McLaren General Hospital before transitioning into the managed health care sector. After holding several leadership roles at various national organizations, she oversaw Health Care Service Corporation (HCSC) as its President and Chief Executive Officer. HCSC is the licensee of BlueCross and BlueShield plans across five states. Under Pat's guidance, HCSC cared for more than 15 million members and a workforce of over 20,000 employees. Among her accolades, Pat was recognized as both one of the top 25 women in healthcare and one of the 100 most influential people in healthcare by Modern Healthcare Magazine multiple times. Throughout her career and retirement, she has served on over a dozen boards; most notably, she is currently on the Board of Directors for Cardinal Health and McLaren Northern Michigan. She has also served on the Michigan State University Foundation Board of Directors.



MEMORIES

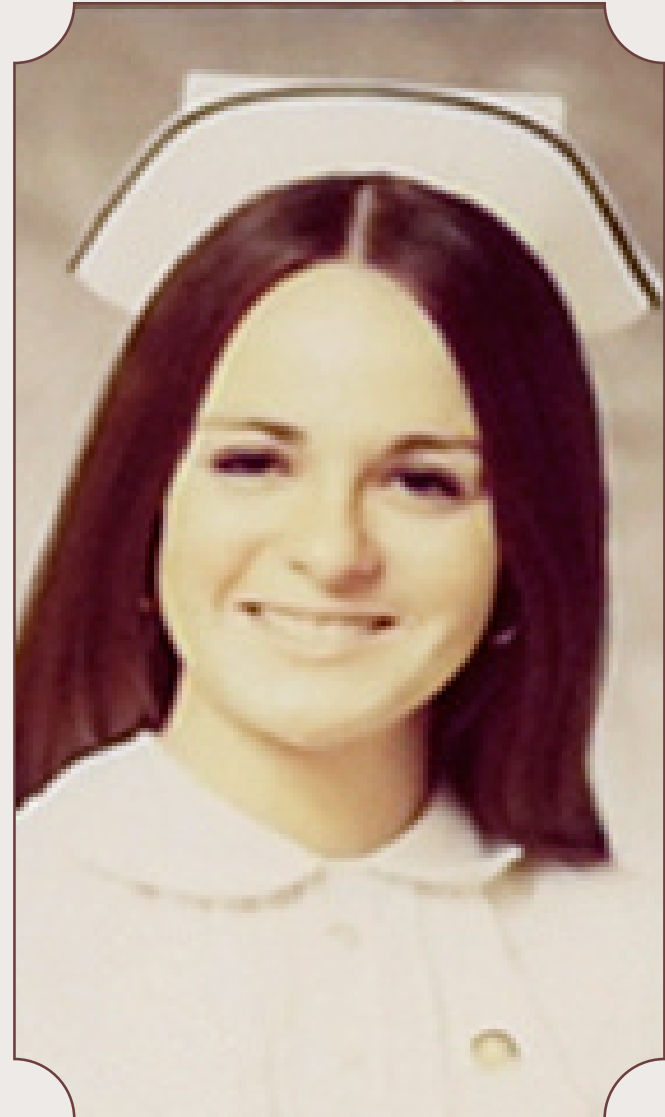
Favorite class

Pat's favorite course, Fundamentals of Nursing, helped her establish guiding principles that supported her throughout her career as an innovative healthcare leader. During the course, she recalled being taught to take a deep breath and conduct a thorough assessment of a situation to find the best path forward.

On being a Spartan Nurse

Being a Spartan has always been part of Pat's identity. Her father was an MSU alum, and she has always felt at home on MSU's campus. The then-MSU School of Nursing, in particular, was foundational to her career and development as a person.

CLASS OF 1975



**PAT HEMINGWAY
HALL**

CLASS OF 1975



CHRISTINE JENSEN

CAREER

Christine Jensen served as a staff nurse for several years before deciding to pursue her master's degree in nursing administration from the University of Texas at Austin. Afterward, she returned to Michigan, where she held several supervisor roles in a Muskegon hospital. Then, she oversaw quality management for nursing at St. Mary's Hospital, now part of Trinity Health, where she created a successful clinical ladder that empowered nurses to become leaders in quality management for their units. She then moved to Colorado, where she was a clinical nurse specialist in information technology. In the last decade of her career, she consulted with healthcare systems across the globe to implement clinical systems. Since retiring in 2014, Christine has been checking off adventures from her "yes, now" list, the successor to her "yes, but not now" pre-retirement list. Most memorably, so far, she jumped into the ocean while in Antarctica.



MEMORIES

Favorite professor

Professor Henrietta Eppink was one of Christine's favorite professors. She had Eppink for her last clinical rotation, psychiatric rotation at Pontiac State Hospital. Eppink was so kind and thoughtful to students and patients.

Favorite memory outside the classroom

As part of their School of Nursing senior dinner, the students had the opportunity to perform skits they had made based on their memories from MSU Nursing. One group did a skit, where the late Michael LePourde, who was the only man in their class, played the uterus and made faces to portray period cramps. From his expressions, Christine thought Michael knew exactly what women went through.

CAREER

Wendy Kushion began as a staff nurse at Sparrow Hospital in 1973 before attending MSU as a BSN completion student. Afterward, she went on to become the inpatient diabetes educator at Sparrow. She also earned her MSN from Wayne State University in 1988. In the late 1980s, Wendy helped manage the development and transition from an inpatient to an outpatient diabetes center at Sparrow, becoming its inaugural manager. She also taught classes on at-home diabetes management and saw patients at the center. Throughout her career, Wendy also saw patients at an MSU Department of Pediatrics and Human Development clinic, volunteered with Camp Midicha, served on the Certification Board for Diabetes Care and Education, and published a chapter in the Complete Nurse's Guide to Diabetes Care.



MEMORIES

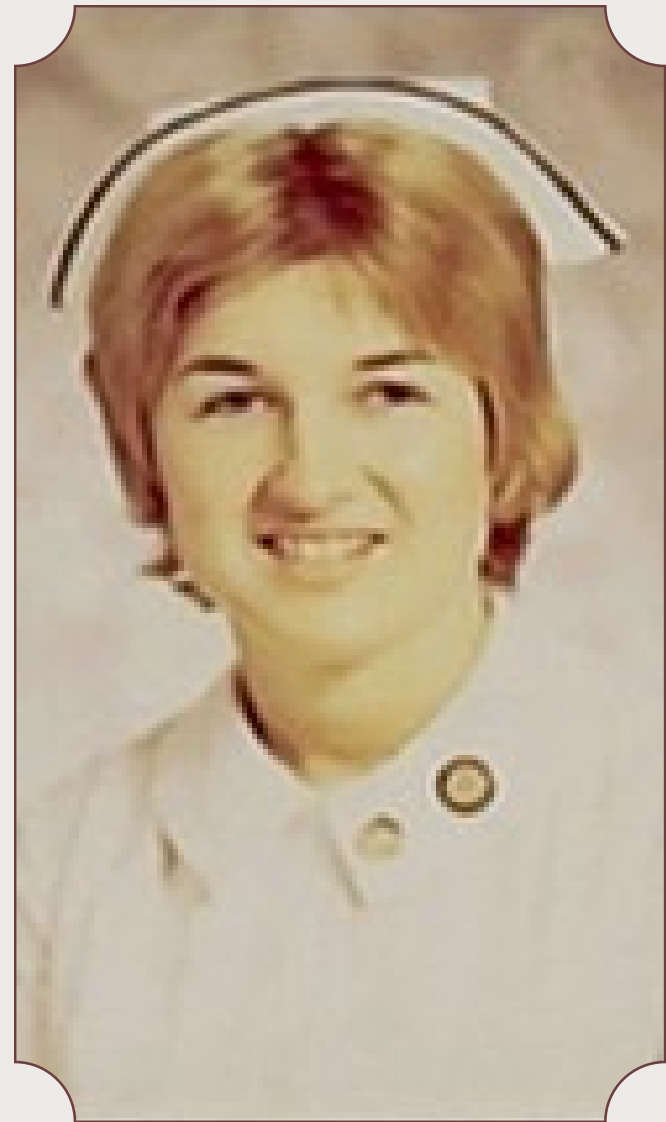
Favorite professor

Professor Brigid Warren, whom Wendy had for her leadership clinical rotation at Lansing General Hospital, had a lasting impact. She helped Wendy learn how to set reasonable goals for patients and follow up without it being too overwhelming. Wendy recalled how supportive Professor Warren was of students, while being very personable and having a great sense of humor.

On being a Spartan Nurse

Since Wendy was already an RN with a diploma from Butterworth Hospital School of Nursing, earning her BSN from MSU created more opportunities for career advancement and helped prepare her for graduate school. She is also proud to be a third-generation MSU alum, with her son carrying on the tradition and becoming the fourth generation in her family to attend MSU.

CLASS OF 1975



WENDY KUSHION

CLASS OF 1975



SYLVIA STEVENS

CAREER

Sylvia Stevens moved to Washington, D.C. shortly after graduation and began her journey in healthcare as a staff nurse in a community hospital med-surg unit before rotating through several different units. Drawn to psychiatry, she served in several inpatient and outpatient units, including ones for child and adolescent patients and for crisis intervention. She earned an MSN as a clinical nurse specialist from the University of Maryland. Afterward, Sylvia established a private practice for psychotherapy in Washington, D.C., where advanced practice nurses soon after gained practice authority, including prescription privilege. After earning her PhD in nursing science from the Catholic University of America, she has also educated others as psychiatric nursing faculty at Marymount University, American University, and the Catholic University of America. While at the latter, she ran a grant-funded community health clinic for underserved populations for several years. Currently, Sylvia is still working in private practice.



MEMORIES

Favorite professor

Professors Barbara Given and Billie Gamble were two of Sylvia's favorite faculty. Both helped her to grow and build her skillset during clinicals. Sylvia also noted that she was impressed that several other professors had been in the military before joining the faculty.

Favorite clinical

During Sylvia's maternity rotation, she was assigned to follow a pregnant patient from the second trimester through delivery. One early morning, she received the call telling her to head to Sparrow because the patient she was following had gone into labor. Sylvia stayed with the mother through the birth of her son. She felt great satisfaction in being part of her journey into motherhood. This experience helped solidify Sylvia's confidence that nursing was the right career for her.

CAREER

Linda White (Yonkoski) has had the opportunity to experience many areas of nursing throughout her career. She began as a NICU staff nurse at St. John Hospital in Detroit before moving on to orthopedics and cardio step-down units. She then went into professional development, where she supported nurses' career growth at several hospitals. Linda eventually returned to St. John Hospital, where she served as the manager of the women's health unit and eventually the director of nursing education and quality. In the last decade of her career, she transitioned into nursing informatics at Cerner Corporation, where she employed her talent for system improvement and clinical knowledge to help implement electronic health records at clinics and hospitals across the US and Canada. In her retirement, she regularly volunteers at Turning Point, an organization that provide services to empower survivors of domestic and sexual violence, and human trafficking.



MEMORIES

Favorite professor

Professor Barbara Given played a major role in shaping Linda as a nurse. From her emphasis on assessment and application of research to her guidance on planning and implementing the care of patients during clinicals, Linda felt that Given provided a roadmap on how to provide evidence based, quality patient care.

On being a Spartan Nurse

Linda's affinity with MSU Nursing is as strong as it was on her first day of class. She is proud to be part of and support a community that has done so much for her – including providing her with the scholarship support she needed to complete college. When she was hiring nurses throughout her career, Linda said she could always spot a Spartan Nurse from a mile away by their ability to plan and care for their patients.

CLASS OF 1975



LINDA WHITE

CLASS OF 1975



JEAN ZANDER

CAREER

Jean Zander (Homrighausen) began her career as a staff nurse in the ICU at the James Whitcomb Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis. Jean went on to become the first pediatric pulmonary clinical nurse specialist at Riley Hospital. She saw both inpatients and outpatients while also taking the lead on patient discharge planning. She helped develop and coordinate an at-home ventilator program for children who could not be weaned from mechanical ventilation. For children who only needed nocturnal ventilation, they often used an iron lung at home, which avoided tracheostomy and allowed them to lead a regular life during the day. She presented her findings at numerous national conferences, and her research was published in several textbooks. After her children were born, Jean transitioned back to the ICU at Riley Hospital to allow for a better work-life balance, where she stayed for the remainder of her career.



MEMORIES

Favorite professor

Professor Linda Spence, who was on the faculty for pediatric nursing, mentored Jean in an independent study. The experience lit a spark in Jean that launched her into a career in pediatric pulmonology and cardiology.

Favorite class

The pediatric class during Jean's junior year was not only her favorite, but it also set the rest of her career in motion. For an assignment, students had to interview a professional in the field. Jean focused on patient and parent education materials and interviewed the assistant director of nursing at Riley Hospital, who was very experienced in that topic. Soon after, she was offered the position at Riley Hospital by the interviewee.



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