

A lesson in giving back

My Marymount experience began as a child growing up in the 1960s in Salina. I attended Sacred Heart Grade School, Junior High and High School. We were taught by the Sisters of St. Joseph exclusively in grade school and began having lay teachers in junior high and high school.

I loved and admired the sisters, even thinking of becoming a sister for a short time.

To me, Marymount was a beautiful building on "The Hill." It had an exciting basketball team and an excellent music and fine arts program. We attended recitals, concerts and piano competitions at Marymount.

When it came time to consider college, I chose nursing as my major. I had been working part time as a nurse's aide at St. John's Hospital during high school and enjoyed patient care. Although I wanted to leave Salina for college, when I was offered an academic scholarship to Marymount, my decision was made. Another factor in my decision was

that Marymount had the reputation of being one of the best programs for a bachelor of science of nursing in the state.



Alumni UPDATE

RHONDA
AHLSTROM
MARTIN

CLASS OF '79

Marymount alumna Rhonda Ahlstrom Martin, third from left, and fellow volunteer teacher Linda Ricke, fourth from left, demonstrate that quilting has its light moments, too. The two Floridians spent a month in Concordia this winter, teaching quilting and sewing classes.

My first two years at Marymount were challenging with a heavy schedule of science classes.

Our class of 44 students (mostly women) began the nursing rotations in our junior year. We went to Topeka for psychiatric nursing and Fort Riley for maternity nursing. All the other rotations were at St. John's Hospital or in the Salina community. We gained a lot of nursing theory and practice that have been the foundation of my nursing career and an important part of raising my family.

I remember one of my classmates saying that everyone should have to learn what we are learning, because it is so useful in every-

day life. We were well prepared for our State Boards. I believe our entire class passed the exam on the first try.

Shortly after graduation in 1979, I married my wonderful husband Frank. We moved to Florida where we have raised our family of eight children and are now enjoying our five grandchildren.

I have been primarily a homemaker but have pursued my nursing career part-time as an RN on a surgical floor, a weekend supervi-

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Save the date: Nursing Class of 1957 plans fall reunion

The Marymount College Class of 1957 Nursing Graduates are planning their 60th class reunion. The gathering will be Sept. 25 through Sept. 29 in Lindsborg, Kan.

More details will be published in the next issue of The Messenger.

In the meantime, organizers are seeking information on missing classmates. They are (listed with the last-known name and hometown):

Davis, Barbara — Fairview, Kan. or Neb.
Grayson, Helen — Kansas City, Mo.
Rhynes, Esther M. Platt — Kansas City, Kan.
Smith, Elsie — Lincoln, Kan. or Neb.
Wood, Clementine — Elwood, Kan.

If you can help locate them — or for more information about the reunion — contact Elaine Chaput McRae at 623/386-5657.

