

Class of '57: Still connecting

I had worked as a nurse aide for several years before entering nursing training at Marymount, so I already knew several Sisters at St. John's Hospital in Salina, where I had my clinical experiences as a student nurse.

Sister Lucienne Savoie was supervisor of Obstetrics and my direct boss. She was an expert with the mothers, making them feel safe and confident as they went through labor and delivery in the days before Lamaze theory came into being. Natural childbirth was "natural" long before theories, and Sister Lucienne taught us to "learn by doing." I learned a lot from her poise and good humor in every situation, as well as the kind gentleness so necessary with mothers, dads and newborns.



Alumni UPDATE

PATRICIA FISCHER CLASS OF '57

Sister Frances Therese Billinger, known as "FT," was the supervisor of a Medical-Surgical Floor. She was highly dedicated to excellent patient care from everyone involved. She demanded hard work and respect, and we students were immediately aware of this. She inspired me to grow as a professional nurse.

Then there was Sister Ann Francis Sidel, supervisor of Surgery. She was a very direct person, knowledgeable, precise and demanding, yet comfortable to work with. She encouraged me to develop self-confidence and interest in further studies. She was an awesome model of a completely competent surgical nurse leader.

These two Sisters were so intensely immersed in their jobs that they seemed to know everything.

Sister Louise Marie Vaughan in 1955-56 was the nursing instructor. She was a studious, reflective and very serious person, fairly new to the job at that time. She taught basic nursing care by instructing each of us individually, having us give demonstrations to her and to the class — I'm remembering needle injections and enemas — and thoroughly explaining the procedures as we did so. She modeled a loving, gentle and humane approach to us, encouraging empathy and a positive approach to illness and disease, an attitude that has served me well all these years.

In our first semester, Sister Angelicia Guinan



Twelve graduates of the Nursing Class of 1957 gathered at the former Marymount College campus for a tour in September 2016. All left to right, front row: Elise Cussen Russell, Dana Olson Barrett, Dorothy Smith, Karlene Sheets Svaty and Myrna Koehn Campbell; middle row, Beth Hafner Chartier-Hraha, Connie Henderson Randolph, Patricia Hill Fischer and Elaine Chaput McRae; back row: Louise Bisnett Sutton, Carol Schmitt Aschenbrenner and Ann Marie Labrie McCune.

On campus in '57? Come to Open House

As the Marymount College Class of 1957 Nursing Graduates gather in Lindsborg, Kan., for their 60th reunion, they are inviting other alumni attending Marymount at the same time to join them for an open house.

The reunion itself is set for Sept. 25 to 29.

The "Happy Hour Open House" will be Wednesday, Sept. 27, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Swedish Country Inn in Lindsborg.

Those planning attend are asked to contact Elaine Chaput McRae at 623/386-5657 for details.

taught principles of biology, anatomy and physiology. Her motto was "Ora Et Labora" ("pray and work"), a necessary combination for incoming greenhorn nurses, if we were to ever see a real patient, she said.

Another important woman was Sister Redempta Eilert, our nursing chemistry teacher and long-suffering dormitory supervisor. Sister Redempta seemed to have infinite patience and good humor in these thankless jobs and I hope she has a high place in heaven for her valiant ef-

forts in training new nurses-to-be.

Sister Theophane Umsheid, director of the Marymount School of Nursing, was responsible for admissions and our destinies as students. She also taught a class called "The Art and Science of Nursing."

We were to practice the highest moral and professional standards in our profession, and be a credit to nursing and to Marymount ideals.

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