I chose Bon Secours Memorial College of Nursing because of the school’s good reputation. As a future nurse, I want to make sure my patients’ families don’t worry about their care. I come from a family of nurses, I wanted to be a nurse too, because I care about people.  

–Mary
Advancing the Bon Secours tradition of good help to those in need...

The mission of the College is to deliver a holistic student-centered learning experience designed to develop health care professionals who provide outstanding care to the community.

We will be the college of choice for individuals called to serve in the health care professions.

**VALUES**

- **Compassion**—intentional engagement in reflective caring practices that embody an institutional culture of respect, integrity, and generosity
- **Excellence**—integration of quality practices to promote ethical, spiritual, intellectual, and professional growth
- **Growth**—commitment to personal and institutional effectiveness to foster a spirit of inquiry, stewardship, and sustainability

**AFFIRMATION**

We, the College, affirm our commitment to:
- Nurture trusting relationships
- Honor individual strengths while fostering collaboration
- Welcome innovation and growth to create a culture and environment of success and shared understanding
Contents

Letter from the Provost ............................................................................. 4
Graduation Highlights .................................................................................... 5
Inaugural BSN Class ...................................................................................... 6
An Evolution — The College Nursing Pin .............................................. 8
Faculty/Alumni Profiles ................................................................................ 9
Community at Its Best
   Community Ambassador Program ......................................................... 10
   Mission to Haiti ......................................................................................... 11
Outstanding Scholarships
   Short Pump Ruritan/Civic Foundation Inc ............................................ 12
   Scholarship Opportunities ....................................................................... 12
   Gloria H. Booker ....................................................................................... 13
Our Donors .................................................................................................... 14
Accreditation ................................................................................................. 15
Dear Friends,

This was a year of milestones and celebrations as Bon Secours Memorial College of Nursing (BSMCON) awarded 26 degrees to the first BSN class this past May. It was truly the pinnacle of our preparation and planning over the last several years as we transitioned into a four-year Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from a diploma program that began in 1961. I’m also proud to say this class continues the tradition of excellence we all have come to expect—a 100 percent pass rate on the National Council Licensure Examination, which all graduates are required to take and pass before they can begin their careers.

As our College expands its programs and offerings in nursing education, our distinguished faculty continue to develop their roles and challenge the profession in a number of capacities. Chris-Tenna (Chrissie) Perkins is just one example among our faculty whose recent accomplishments are worthy of acknowledgement.

Chrissie is currently our assistant dean of nursing, as well as assistant professor and BSN coordinator. During her 11-year tenure, she has led the development and implementation of the adult nursing curriculum, and her knowledge in curriculum and evaluation was instrumental in building our BSN program. In addition, Chrissie has been a central figure in shaping our policies, assessing our clinical agencies, and collaborating with practice partners. Her leadership and guidance is prominent on several BSMCON committees that include admission and progression, curriculum, and faculty organization.

As she continues to make a remarkable difference in the education of our students, she has been a student herself. Chrissie recently completed her Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing Education from the University of Northern Colorado. Many other members of our faculty are pursuing their doctorates as well, serving as living examples of lifelong learners. Others exemplify our values of compassion and stewardship by serving a wide variety of community needs while serving as full-time faculty.

As we applaud our faculty for their contributions to the College, we continually look toward the future. With the ever-changing demands in health care, it is crucial that we provide the most innovative student-centered instruction while imparting the compassion, excellence and growth that are Bon Secours tradition. As we celebrate this first class, we remember our rich history and the values that will sustain our graduates as they embark on their call to serve.

In the Spirit of Bon Secours,

Melanie H. Green
Ph.D., RN, CNE
Vice President and Provost
As each of our 26 newly minted “first class” graduates stepped onto the stage on May 16, 2013, to accept his or her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree you could feel the sense of accomplishment and pride inside St. Mary’s Catholic Church.

“This was our first BSN class for the College. Transitioning to a degree program took years of preparation and planning, and today we see the fruits of our labor,” said Provost Melanie Green. “We are proud to provide a rich, student-centered educational experience for our graduates who now take what they’ve learned with us into their professional careers.”

Our inaugural class is diverse, with varying educational and personal histories. Many of our graduates balanced school with families, jobs and community obligations. More than half had earned degrees before deciding to become a nurse; Dunstan Walakira is one such graduate.

With an undergraduate degree in quantitative economics under his belt from his native Uganda, Dunstan came to Virginia to earn a graduate degree, but his course of study took a turn when he felt the call to serve. “I took care of my mother while she was very ill; this caused me to think of ways I could help the sick.” He said his education had already begun when his wife gave birth to their daughter, strengthening his decision to pursue a career in compassionate care.
“We are proud to provide a rich, student-centered educational experience for our graduates who now take what they’ve learned with us into their professional careers.” —Provost Melanie Green

He added, “There are many nursing programs in the Richmond area, but the Bon Secours Memorial College of Nursing is the one I chose because I wanted to become a world-class nurse.”

Dunstan knows his decision to attend our College extends beyond the classroom and clinical setting. “I came to BSMCON to get a nursing education, but I left with skills that I now apply to all areas of my life. He says, “Attending this college personally changed me—I learned to work harder and push through even when faced with disappointment. I am a better person because I attended BSMCON.”

Another BSMCON student who persevered to become the first person in her family to earn a college degree is Narges Sayar. Born in Kabul, Afghanistan, Narges came to the U.S. when she was five years old. She joked that a career assessment in middle school would seal her fate. She said, “I can remember taking several career surveys and nursing was always on the list!”

She said of her decision to attend BSMCON, “Continuing my education was important to both me and my family. I knew a Bachelor of Science was the right path for my nursing education.” The program was “very tough,” but she now feels prepared and ready to handle whatever comes her way.

Dunstan and Narges, along with 22 fellow graduates, are now employed within the Bon Secours Health System.
The fleur-de-lis was widely used on stationery for the ministries of the Sisters of Bon Secours in the United States. The fleur-de-lis is a stylized lily and represents the purity of the Blessed Mother, Mary Immaculate.

The fleur-de-lis was placed atop the cross to signify the union the Sisters have with the teachings of Christ; that the path of suffering would lead beyond all pain, suffering and anguish to hope in the resurrection. This is most appropriate for the nursing profession. The fleur-de-lis and cross also signify the close bond of our Lady with her Son; the Bon Secours mission with the lived ministry of the Gospel teachings.

In religious art history, the oval shape signifies both an egg for abundance and creativity, and a crown of laurels for the victorious, who have run the race and won the joy of the Blessed Kingdom with Jesus. Our nurse graduates must use creativity and an abundance of prayer in ministering to the sick and dying; they have run the course of training and succeeded.

The colors are the blue and gold frequently seen in depictions of Our Lady; certainly harkening to the statue of Our Lady of Bon Secours in the Chapel in Paris.

The design of the pin is simple but not simplistic. It is an easy image to recognize; large enough for patients to see, remember, and recall as comforting in times of trouble.

As we celebrate the milestone of the College’s first Bachelor of Science in Nursing graduation ceremony this year, we look back to our roots and reaffirm our dedication to the legacy of our founders. In doing so, our graduates received a replication of the pin given to graduates of the original Bon Secours School of Nursing in Baltimore. Below is a description of the pin as written by Mary Herbert, archivist for the Sisters of Bon Secours, USA.
When Tomeka Dowling joined the College of Nursing in January 2013, she knew about our outstanding reputation and commitment to excellence. She had, after all, come from the Virginia Board of Nursing as a nursing education consultant, a position that ensures the nursing education being taught within the Commonwealth of Virginia complies with state laws and regulations.

“I was very familiar with the 100 percent NCLEX-RN pass rates, which conveyed to me the exceptional preparation the students receive,” she said. Tomeka was also impressed with the College’s decision to transition to a baccalaureate degree from a diploma program that was in place for more than 50 years. “I believe in seeking new ways to improve processes and standards. Helping to build the foundation of an organization and see it flourish is what I truly enjoy.”

Our faith-based environment was another factor Tomeka valued. “In the past, I have worked for organizations where open discussion of your faith was discouraged; to be able to openly demonstrate my faith into my practice is refreshing.”

Once she joined our faculty, Tomeka took an active role in shaping the future of the College. She participates in several committees that include chair of faculty development and vice chair of faculty organization and is a member of both the search and performance improvement committees.

She is currently teaching Competencies II; Professional Role Development; Servant Leadership; Transition and Validation of Nursing; and Adult Nursing Science I Practicum. As she educates our next generation of nursing professionals, Tomeka knows there is more to do to fully prepare students to effectively confront the nation’s most pressing health care challenges. She says, “Nursing education will need to incorporate content and clinical opportunities for students to become more aware of health care policy, leadership, population/community health needs, and reimbursement.”

Tomeka wants to help lead that change. She is working toward her Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) at the George Washington University. Her course work incorporates health policy, knowledge of information technology, evidence-based practice, business principles, collaboration, health systems, and health policy into practice. Her course of study should conclude in late 2016.

As a December 2010 diploma graduate of the Bon Secours Memorial College of Nursing, Brittany Jo Hughes knew she had received an excellent education. “Attending BSMCON for my diploma was a very positive experience,” she said. “The instructors want to see students excel, and the 100 percent NCLEX-RN pass rate shows their compassion and effective instruction that other schools simply can’t match.”

After graduation, Brittany Jo accepted employment with Bon Secours and has worked at both St. Mary’s Hospital and Memorial Regional Medical Center. “I knew about their Magnet designation for high-quality nursing; these hospitals seek four-year-degree-educated nurses,” she said. “I felt I needed to complete my personal part and achieve my bachelor’s degree as a first step toward excellence.”

Brittany Jo chose our RN-BSN program after researching her options. “Bon Secours was the only program that was truly all online. As a working professional, this appealed to me,” she said. Once she began the program, she quickly realized how much her experience as a nurse would benefit her studies. “The RN-BSN program is designed to allow students to draw upon their personal experiences as a working professional in the field,” Brittany Jo said. “I know what I’ve learned can really be applied to the workplace.”

What is her advice to colleagues thinking about pursuing their BSN degree? “Go for it! It’s an investment in yourself as well as an achievable goal.”

Brittany Jo now calls St. Francis Medical Center home, working in the New Life Center. “It’s always been my dream to be able to work in Labor and Delivery,” she said. “No other job allows you to tell someone ‘happy birthday’ for the first time.”

She recently completed her Bachelor of Science in Nursing in December 2013.
Bon Secours Community Ambassador Program

This year the College launched a service pilot program called Bon Secours Community Ambassadors. The program, led by faculty member Kathy Faw, provides first-year nursing students the opportunity to serve the community while developing their leadership and nursing skills.

Students will volunteer a minimum of 20 hours each semester until they graduate, and hopefully beyond. Bon Secours Care-A-Van and CrossOver Healthcare Ministries, which provide free, compassionate health care to the underserved of our community, are proud to be our community partners for this exciting program.

The first group of students selected included sophomores Katie Beatty, Allegrah Nguyen, Whitney Wassmer, Rachel Goins and Hilda Eusebio. Service will begin with clerical duties and progress as their nursing skills and education advance.

“The goal is to support the development of leaders with the desire and heart for service. This is another great example of providing ‘good help’ to those in need.”

—Provost Melanie Green

This past May, 10 students and faculty members traveled to remote villages in Haiti for the annual week-long mission trip to provide care to more than 2,000 underserved Haitians who otherwise have no access to immediate health care. The team set up clinics in the villages of Domond and Sauvanette to provide services such as mini-assessments that included blood pressure readings, education on dehydration and diet, as well as how to use community resources to fight infection and ward off disease.
Jennifer Hawkins, a BSMCON student who participated this year, was humbled by the experience and inspired to do more mission work in the future. “The trip provided me the opportunity to combine two aspects of my life that I am passionate about—serving others and nursing,” she said. Seeing firsthand the challenges that the Haitians from these villages encounter daily “challenged me to grow as an individual while gaining a heightened sense of cultural sensitivity that will enhance my nursing career,” Jennifer concluded.

Philip Denny, a fellow student who participated in the mission, couldn’t agree more. He wasn’t surprised by the poverty he witnessed but instead was impressed by the pure beauty, friendliness, and perseverance of the Haitian communities he visited. “The mission renewed my desire to use my knowledge, skills, and passion of nursing to help others so that I may return one day to help other countries in need.”

While the trip focuses on serving, another aspect of the mission is to create bonding experiences and build fellowship among the students and faculty, as well as those involved directly in Haiti. “As the mission comes to a close, we have a special night where awards are presented, stories are shared, and an appreciation for what we learned and accomplished is felt,” said Kathy Faw, an alumna of the College and BSMCON faculty member who has participated in the Haiti mission trip for several years. “In the end, it’s about bringing a sense of hope—in Haiti and for each other.”
$100,000 Short Pump Ruritan/Civic Foundation Scholarship Realizes Students’ Dreams

It’s no secret that many students rely on scholarships and financial aid to achieve their higher education career goals. This year, the Short Pump Ruritan/Civic Foundation, Inc. made it a bit easier for 13 more students to realize their dreams.

After receiving numerous thank-you letters from students who benefited from the scholarship last year, the Foundation increased their donation by $65,000—bringing the total scholarship amount to $100,000. Established for Bon Secours Memorial College of Nursing students from Richmond’s West End, these deserving students are this year’s recipients: Alexandra Burnette, Allison Brook, Jordan Cohen, Virginia Flynn, Phoebe Gilbert, Madeline Hadder, Mercelia Horne, Jeanne Indelicato, Mary Patton, Anna Sakharuk, Lauren Terry and Caitlin Thompson.

As a senior preparing to graduate next May, Virginia (Ginny) Flynn can see the long-term value this award provides. “Receiving this scholarship not only helps pay for my bachelor’s degree but helps me to envision furthering my education without the added stress of debt,” she said. As a mother, Ginny knows this will help her family and her community at large, as she prepares for a career in pediatrics. “I raise my family with the belief that one small action can yield large results. I know this is part of that equation.”

Jeanne Indelicato, currently a junior, is equally interested in the bigger picture. Active in her community, Jeanne has volunteered for several groups that align with her prior experience in architecture and design. She foresees her career in nursing to have the same impact. “My vision as a nurse will be empathetic, welcoming, nurturing and informative to those in my care,” she said. “Receiving this award allows me to complete my studies, become a nurse, and give back to the community through education and empowerment.”

We congratulate these students on their scholarships and wish them continued success.
Gloria H. Booker Scholarship

“This servant leadership allows me to give of myself and serve others with integrity.” — Celeste Brown

This year’s recipient of the Gloria H. Booker Scholarship was Celeste Brown. The scholarship, awarded annually to a junior or senior student with a minimum GPA of 3.0 and who demonstrates a strong commitment to compassion, was established to honor Mrs. Booker’s legacy of service to which she has dedicated her life.

Celeste was selected to receive this scholarship because she personifies servant leadership. As a student at BSMCON, Celeste has served as an Honor Council representative for student government as well as a Student Ambassador for new students. She will represent the College as part of the Haiti mission team in 2014 and continues to be a source of guidance for her fellow classmates.

“Servant leadership allows me to give of myself and serve others with integrity,” said Celeste. When she made the decision to become a nurse, it naturally fit into her plans. “It resonates with who I am and how I live my life. I can continue to be present with patients and their families or friends when they need a kind, caring and compassionate person the most.”

Celeste’s commitment to serve others can be seen within her local community as well. She volunteers her time with several other organizations that include the American Red Cross, Meals on Wheels and Habitat for Humanity.

She expects to receive her Bachelor of Science in Nursing next May.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Modlin Scholarship
Criteria: GPA of 3.5., based upon merit.

Mary Jane Naecker Young Award
The class of 1965 presented, as its class gift to the school, $500 to honor its class advisor, Mrs. Mary Jane Young. The instructions were to provide a $100 scholarship to a deserving junior student each year for a five-year period.
Criteria: junior student who demonstrates financial need and is recommended by the faculty.

Sarah F. Richardson Memorial Scholarship
Sarah Richardson was a member of our faculty from 1985 to her retirement in 2012. This scholarship was established in her memory to perpetuate her love of nursing and legacy of compassion.
Criteria: full-time status with financial need, must embody the spirit of nursing with compassion, servant leadership, and commitment to excellence.

LeReve Mallory Peluso Scholarship
After a 47-year nursing career that welcomed countless births at St. Mary’s Hospital, this scholarship was created by LeReve (Revie’s) sons, in honor of her dedication to lifelong learning.
Criteria: awarded to a rising junior who demonstrates academic excellence and leadership with an interest to work in the newborn nursery, minimum GPA 3.0, financial need, and essay required.

Jean Ritz-See Scholarship
Given annually in honor of Ms. Ritz-See by her family.
Criteria: junior-level student with financial need, a GPA of 3.0, and a desire to work in the newborn nursery.

Short Pump Ruritan/Civic Foundation Nursing Scholarship
(See story at left.)

The Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation is a charity dedicated to the support of women in nine southeastern states.
Criteria: awarded to a southern, Christian female with financial need.
We appreciate the generosity of our friends who have given to BSMCON. Without your generous gifts, we could not advance the Bon Secours tradition of providing good help to those in need. If you would like to donate, please fill out the attached envelope or contact us to learn about giving opportunities.

PLATINUM FLEUR-DE-LIS SOCIETY MEMBER
[ ABOVE $10,000 ]
Mr. and Mrs. Guy P. Richardson
Short Pump Ruritan/Civic Foundation, Inc.
Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation

GOLD FLEUR-DE-LIS SOCIETY MEMBER
[ UP TO $9,999 ]
Commonwealth of Virginia

SILVER FLEUR-DE-LIS SOCIETY MEMBER
[ UP TO $4,999 ]
Mr. Thomas N.P. Johnson III

FLEUR-DE-LIS SOCIETY MEMBER
[ UP TO $2,499 ]
Anonymous Individual
Mr. Peter B. Cleal
Grace Hospital Alumnae Association
Melanie H. Green, Ph.D., RN, CNE
Richmond Academy of Medicine Alliance Foundation, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Richard C. Ritz
St. Mary’s Hospital Volunteers Auxiliary
United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg

FRIEND OF FLEUR-DE-LIS SOCIETY MEMBER
[ UP TO $999 ]
Anonymous Individual
Ms. Shelly Buck
Ms. Linda C. Inge

NIGHTINGALE SOCIETY MEMBER
[ UP TO $499 ]
Mr. and Mrs. William D. Bien, Jr.
Mrs. Cheryl Pitts Cage
Ms. June M. Duck
Ms. Jeanne P. Indelicato
Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Mason, Jr.
Ms. Mary Patton
Miss Eryn L. Peters
Ms. Emmaline F. M. Shelnutt
Ms. Ashley N. Siegel
Mrs. Diane F. Smith
Jenny S. Thomas-Wright, RN, BSN
Ms. Caren L. Yard

Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy. Please contact our marketing department at elia_imler@bshsi.org to report any discrepancies.
Accreditation

Bon Secours Memorial College of Nursing is approved to operate by the State Council of Higher Education in Virginia and the Virginia Board of Nursing. The College is accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools. The BSN program includes the essential content recommended by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing. Bon Secours Memorial College of Nursing is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). The College of Nursing is owned by Bon Secours Memorial Regional Medical Center, which is responsible for the College’s operation.

Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools
750 First Street  |  Suite 980
Washington, DC 20002-4241
(202) 336-6780

American Association of Colleges of Nursing | Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education
One Dupont Circle, NW  |  Suite 530
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 463-6930

State Council of Higher Education in Virginia
101 N. 14th Street
Richmond, VA 23219
(804) 225-2600

Virginia Board of Nursing
9960 Mayland Drive, #300
Henrico, VA 23233
(804) 367-4400