MNA Awards
and
Michigan Nurses Hall of Fame Inductions

Friday, October 2, 2015
Westin Southfield
Southfield, MI
Welcome
JOHN ARMELAGOS, RN; PRESIDENT, MICHIGAN NURSES ASSOCIATION

Dinner

Recognition of Terms of Service on the MNA Board of Directors

Carolyn Hietamaki, RN
4 TERMS OF SERVICE

Ashley Forsberg, RN
1 TERM OF SERVICE

Pamela Maule, RN
1 TERM OF SERVICE

John Armelagos, RN
1 TERM OF SERVICE

Recognition of Michigan Nurses Foundation Scholarship Recipients

Eboni Davis
UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT MERCY

Angela Stuive
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Brianna Wilson
GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

Recognition of Leipold Scholarship Recipient
Margaret Rabideau
PRESENTED BY DEBRA S. NAULT, MSN, RN, CNM
MNA ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE

Recognition of MNA Award Recipients
Labor Leader of the Year Award
Jamie Brown, RN, CNRN

Outstanding Contribution to MNA Award
Debbie Colbert, RN

Cheryl L. Johnson Nurse Labor Leader of the Year Award
Carolyn Hietamaki, RN

Michigan Nurses Hall of Fame Inductions
Margo Barron, RN
Historical

Gail Jehl, RN
Contemporary
Michigan Nurses Foundation Scholarship Winners

Eboni Davis • University of Detroit Mercy

A registered nurse currently employed at St. John Hospital and Medical Center in Detroit, Eboni is in the MSN program at University of Detroit Mercy. Her plans are to become a Nurse Practitioner working in an Emergency Department. “I believe that as a Nurse Practitioner in an Emergency Department, I will continuously be faced with the challenge of critical thinking,” Eboni wrote in her application. “In addition to the assortment of illnesses that I may deal with in the Emergency Department, I am also afforded the opportunity to work with a population of people of varying ages.” Her future plans include practicing as a primary care provider and pursuing her doctoral degree in research.

Angela Stuive • Michigan State University

Angela is enrolled in the BSN program at Michigan State University. A congenital transradial amputation of her right arm has given her a special connection with those who are disabled, especially babies that are born with congenital defects. “Working with these tiny miracles is such an honor; it’s amazing and rewarding, yet a difficult and challenging area that keeps me motivated in my career and person alike,” Angela says. “It’s a remarkable gift to be able to go to work and interact with families and share mutual inspiration and encouragement.” Her goal is to finish her BSN and then complete her MSN as a Nurse Practitioner, focusing on critically ill infants.

Brianna Wilson • Grand Valley State University

A familiar face for the last three years at MNA events, Brianna is building on her experience as a leader on the Michigan Nursing Students Association Board of Directors for her future plans. She will graduate with her BSN from Grand Valley State University in December and will continue working in the medical intensive care unit, where she is employed as a patient care technician. “I want to continue growing as a leader and contribute to the future of the profession by going back to school and getting my DNP,” Brianna writes. “From there, I would like to eventually move into a management position where I will encourage and support those I work with to further their activism and leadership within nursing. You need the support of your colleagues working and fighting beside you to create the kind of change that the nursing profession needs at this time in our history.”
Leipold Scholarship Recipient

Margaret Rabideau
An ADN student at Mid Michigan Community College in Mt. Pleasant, Margaret is employed as a Nurse Assistant at St. Mary Mercy Hospital. “Six years of medical experience have given me the opportunity to determine the path of nursing I want to choose after school,” says Margaret. “I want to care for those who live in poverty, work in an area that is mentally challenging and give individualized care on a daily basis. I want to work with volunteer clinics in the Detroit area and find a way we can serve the population that is unable to find transportation to healthcare facilities. I look forward to starting a career that allows me to accomplish this every day. As a nurse, I am truly going to live out my passion: serving others.”

Margaret Louise Miller Leipold, RN Scholarship
Established in 2012 by her daughters, the Margaret Louise Miller Leipold, RN scholarship honors their mother, a nurse who influenced and mentored young nurses. The scholarship is awarded to a second-year Michigan community college nursing student in need of financial assistance.

Labor Leader of the Year

Jamie Brown, RN, CNRN • Borgess Medical Center
In 2012, Jamie Brown, the “quiet one,” as co-worker and friend Becky Baldwin calls her, became the Borgess Staff Nurse Council president. Jamie began her path to leadership by serving on the negotiation team, then becoming Vice President. As her leadership skills grew, Jamie found her voice, and she has grown into a strong advocate for nurses and the profession. “Jamie continues to educate herself on the issues that involve labor unions, but she also makes sure that the officers, grievance representatives, and young members of the nursing profession are aware of what life is like with a union setting and what it would be like without a union,” says Baldwin. Jamie shares her values with Faye (age 11), Owen (age 8), and Ryann (age 7) while serving as a coach for Girls on the Run and a Girl Scout leader. She practices in Neuro/Ortho at Borgess Medical Center.
Outstanding Contribution to MNA

Debbie Colbert, RN • CHIPPAWA COUNTY WAR MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

In 2006, the nurses at Chippewa County War Memorial Hospital in Sault Ste. Marie were represented by a non-nursing union. They were unhappy and their leader, Deb Colbert, led them through the tough process of disaffiliating and seeking better representation with the Michigan Nurses Association. “Debbie is one of the most persistent strong-willed women I know. She is not afraid to ask and probe for information when it comes to supporting the collective group,” says Charlotte Folkersma, RN, a leader who has grown under Debbie’s tutelage. As president of the nurses’ union for the last 18 years, her members call her a hard worker, a fighter, with keen leadership activities and impressive energy. Debbie splits her time working at both War Memorial and the Sault Area Hospital in Sault, Ontario, Canada. She practices in Obstetrics and is a Certified Lactation Consultant.

Deb has a way of making a person feel just as Maya Angelou describes: “As a nurse we have the opportunity to heal the mind, soul, heart, and body of our patients, their families and ourselves. They may forget your name but they will never forget how you made them feel.” I think this is most fitting for Deb and what she represents. – Joy Rath, RN

Cheryl L. Johnson Nurse Labor Leader of the Year Award

Carolyn Hietamaki, RN • U.P. HEALTH SYSTEM, MARQUETTE GENERAL HOSPITAL

For over 20 years, Carolyn has served as the president of the UP Health System Marquette General Hospital Staff Nurse Council. “She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience with her in any event she is involved with,” says Suzette Hantz, RN, a friend and co-worker. In addition to her role as president, Carolyn is active in the U.P. Labor Federation, AFL-CIO and on the MNA Board of Directors as treasurer. She also serves as the Chair of the MNA PAC Board of Trustees. In describing Cheryl, her members cite her compassion, her leadership, her willingness to help out, her ability to be a team player, and her knowledge. Carolyn is a wound care nurse, where she is known for providing clinical expertise and education to patients, nurses and physicians.
Michigan Nurses Hall of Fame Inductions

Margo Barron, RN • HISTORICAL INDUCTION

Margaret Mary Barron was born in Niles, MI and attended the University of Michigan School of Nursing, graduating in 1946 with her Diploma in Nursing. She then joined the nursing staff at University of Michigan Hospital, working first in an ambulatory clinic, then in the emergency and outpatient units, achieving the position of Head Nurse in the Surgery Clinic. She retired from the University of Michigan Hospital in July 1991.

Margo’s first frustration with workplace issues took place when she found out that even as a full-time RN, she would never be able to get a loan to buy a house due to the poor wages she earned. Beginning in 1974, Margo led the nurses to seek representation through collective bargaining in order to be recognized as professional nurses and promote better patient care. On February 10, 1975, the University of Michigan Professional Nurse Council (UMPNC) was born with its first contract, covering approximately 800 nurses, negotiated in 1976.

As the first chair of UMPNC, reports Robbi Duda, a fellow nurse, “Margo was a fearless and fiery leader.” Under her guidance, nurses gained a grievance and arbitration procedure, a process against unjust

“I still mention her name frequently as one of my mentors and an exemplar of her profession. With Margo I developed simple, inexpensive, and at the time innovative ways to manage wound problems that kept people (especially nurses) out of work unnecessarily. It was a model for collaboration. We developed methods I still use. As I recall, she didn’t mind breaking the rules. She belongs right up there with Colleen Dunleavy as one of U of M Hospital’s great nurses.”

Richard E. Burney, MD Professor Emeritus of Surgery

Margo Barron signs the first University of Michigan Professional Nurses Council contract.

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discipline, and a more defined and neutral compensation system. “Under Margo’s leadership,” says Duda, “the UMPNC members gained a contract Article entitled “Professional Nursing,” which recognized nurses as the group responsible for nursing care including patient education within the resources of the employer.”

Margo saw UMPNC through two strikes, one which improved scheduling and work load, the second for the “Professional Nursing” language. She retired in 1991, having mentored countless nurses including the second and third UMPNC presidents – Deb Stoll and Cheryl Johnson – and new leaders within the state such as Becky Baldwin from Borgess Hospital in Kalamazoo.

“Margo’s contributions continue to greatly benefit the nurses of Michigan today,” says Lisa Sylvest, RN, another leader mentored by Barron. “Many of the benefits young nurses have today at UMHS, such as limits on overtime, limits on shift changes, etc. are a result of the work of Ms. Barron. Her contributions to safe staffing ratios and professional practice guidelines continue to contribute to the health and welfare of Michigan citizens.”

“She never saw herself as the brave “trend breaker and setter” that she was,” says Duda. “She said it was a team effort and never gave great significance to herself as the leader and visionary she was.”

Margo passed away at the age of 89 in November 2013.

Gail Jehl, RN • CONTEMPORARY INDUCTION

Gail Jehl, RN has been a registered nurse for over 45 years and was the Grievance Chair at Sparrow Hospital in Lansing for 18 years until her recent retirement in July 2015. She frequently served on the MNA Board of Directors. Since 1994 she has led the negotiating team at Sparrow and helped gain numerous strong contract wins and progressive language for the union members.

A strong mentor, she “pushed, coaxed, cajoled and dragged many of us to our potentials,” says Carol Kirtland, RN, her successor to the Grievance Chair position. She is “mentor, teacher, coach and collaborator,” says Marianne George, RN, a fellow leader.

“She has provided endless hours of education and encouragement so that Professional Employee Council of Sparrow Hospital (PECSH) members would become involved in not only local activities but MNA activities,” says Tammy Parsons, RN, PECSH Treasurer. “She served on numerous committees and helped develop the Nurse Residency and Fellowship programs.”
“Gail has a long-standing history of fighting for worker’s rights and she has earned the reputation of being tough as nails,” says Kirtland. “Yet a day rarely goes by when she is not personally thanked warmly by someone whose life she touched . . . she has accomplished much with a great sense of humor, a piercing blue gaze, and a sense of what needs to be asked and said at the right time.”

“I have seen her cry (in private) over caregivers she could not help,” says George. “I have seen her take her own money out of her purse so that a taxi ride or meal could be provided, so dignity could be spared when a caregiver was in need. I have seen her give out her cell phone number so that the member she was representing had access to her when they needed her even though I knew that member would probably call her many times after she left the office. Her title may have been Grievance Chair but Gail has been so much more than that to the membership.”

Gail is now looking forward to spending time with her 12 grandchildren and as she said recently, “getting some sleep.”